Sunday, 25 March; clear and warmer, thawing. After luncheon I drove to Winworth. Sister said she would have Lewis move a stove for her tomorrow and asked if I wanted him for the same purpose. I said yes because wife had spoken several times about setting up a stove in the parlor to supplement the steam heat when the fire was low in the furnace or on mild days. But when I mentioned it to wife she at once vetoed the idea.

Monday, 26 March;rain, sleet, ice, clouds, cold. Had trouble with neuritis in shoulders and hands last night. Breakfast at noon. A man called with extracts for sale. I drove to town over a bad road with the laundry and brought out groceries. Am nearly blind and can no longer read. Wife reads to me almost every night.

Tuesday, 27 March; heavy fog with rain in the evening. Sister telephoned she wanted some stovepipe and Mr.Houck telephoned he had a horse for me. Wife went to the box for the mail and saw Grayson Blank, the one-armed painter, who was greatly excited. He said he was hunting with a hound belonging to a neighbor over the ridge from us and that Sandy, our dog, had suddenly appeared and killed the hound. Wife asked where the hound was then. Grayson said "Why, it ran down the road as hard as it could go." Then he said I should see the owner of the dog and apologize or he would sue me for damages.

(Otis, 27 March, brown folder)

Wednesday, 28 March;cloudy and warmer following heavy rain last night. Not much in the mail. In the afternoon Mr.and Mrs.Hershey called to look out for birds and stayed quite awhile. She visited wife in Sunny Hill House and he visited with me in the Whippoorwill. Both are nice people. Had trouble with right lung and shortness of breath all day. To loosen things up I tried chopping a little wood but soon quit because of the difficulty in seeing the stick I was chopping. Did a little typewriting with the aid of a magnifying glass.

Thursday, 29 March; clear and warm; a lovely day. In the afternoon I drove to Mr.Houck's and bought a pony bay mare named Fanny for $75 which would about match Mollie Mula in weight. He agreed to take her back if not satisfactory. Wife and I took supper with mother and sister.

Friday, 30 March; clear and warmer. Wiggles kept us awake in the night with his barking until I could stand it no longer. I got up, dressed, and went out to the barn and scolded him sharply. He did not bark again although he had kept it up steadily for several hours before. After noon I drove to town for the laundry and groceries. Stopped at Winworth to see the new pony that had been delivered the evening before. Old lady Masser died yesterday in her 90th year. I have not been feeling well, no appetite and no energy. I did no work of any kind today.

Saturday, 31 March; Rain and wind last night and today. Slept until nearly noon. Went for the mail at 2 p'clock. Tried to do a little writing. Walker telephoned from Washington that Otis would be in Washington next Tuesday. I was sorry, believing it would be better for Otis to remain in California and learn how to make his own way and acquire California citizenship which would be helpful if he ever attempted to gain a civil service status. Apparently Otis was one of those fortunate individuals who was born to have others

(1924, Aaron, S.B.)

do things for him. This is a great asset if one has intelligence enough to appreciate it and properly utilize it.

Sunday, 1 Apl.; clear and warm. Last night I typed a long memorandum on "65 Years Old--or Young," which I could not read after it was written but which I knew was too long to expect any one else ever to read it. Some day I may try my hand at rewriting it. Wife and I walked together to the narcisus patch. The plants were growing rapidly ~~and growing~~ an inch a day. We even found a few early blossoms. Lacked energy to visit the folks at Winworth.

Monday, 2 April; clear and warm. Lewis came at noon to trim the grapevines. He was riding Fanny, the new pony, which seemed to have a cough. In the afternoon wife and I went to town. She had her shoes polished. Together we went to the bank and signed a mortgage and note for a loan of $1,000 on the lower farm. Then we saw a Will Rogers picture, "David Harum." Wife did some shopping and it was late when we got home. I could hardly see the road and was exhausted when we reached the house. We had Snyder's Virginia ham sandwitches and tea for supper.

(Bauer, 2 April, brown folder)

Tuesday, 3 April; clear and warm. Lewis pruning grapevines. I did some typewriting in the afternoon, using a magnifying glass to read shorthand notes and trusting to habit to strike the right keys. Had expected to hear from Otis today but no word came.

Wednesday, 4 April; cloudy, fogs, showers. I made a fire in the Whippoorwill, got the mail, picked a few narcissus, wrote some letters, and transcribed some notes. Wife telephoned to Walker's wife but they had heard nothing from Otis.

Thursday, 5 April; cloudy and gloomy. Had trouble starting a fire in the Whippoorwill as if the chimbney were stopped up. Sister came up while I was working with it before breakfast. Walker's wife telephoned that Otis had just arrived in Washington. In the afternoon Walker brought him out in his car. Walker said they had been to the office of Senator Tydings of Maryland and at Frederick ~~had stopped to get the endorsement~~ at the office of the Central Democratic Committe of Frederick County for an endorsement of Otis for a temporary position in the Indian Office of the Interior Department. They stayed until nearly 5 p.m. Otis said he left San Diego last Saturday and the bus was delayed en route. Both young men looked rather thin and peaked. We suggested that Otis remain over night, but Walker seemed to think it was important that he return and start work the next morning.

Friday, 6 April; cloudy and cool. Hound dogs running and yelping last night for hours. Very annoying and if I could see them I would shoot them. Drove to town for feed for the horses. Sister said Lewis had hitched the pony up with the mule and she did not work well. She dances and hops about too much, letting the mule pull the whole load. Took wife to town for groceries. I had great difficulty in seeing.

Saturday, 7 April; cloudy, alternating showers and sunshine. Plumbers were out to remove stoppage in a drain pipe. Received a copy of a letter Senator Tydings wrote endorsing Otis for a temporary position in the Indian Office. Tried to do a little typing in the afternoon. Took some liver pills last night and weak from lassitude today.

Sunday, 8 April; clear and warm. Otis and Walker spent the night with us. Breakfast about noon. Visited the folks at Winworth. Wife cooked and served another meal at 4 p.m. for the young men. Just as they were finishing the Ladds came up. Mr.Ladd as usual was taciturn. Clifford acted like a big overgrown boy, hungry, utterly selfish, without manners,taking possession of whatever he wanted and making himself obnoxiously at home. Sat in both houses with his hat on. They stayed until 6 p.m. Wife set the table for them and cleaned up everything. All were hearty eaters and physically large. Before leaving Clifford asked for a bottle of wine to take back with him. I had to look about for a fruit jar, wash it, and fill it with wine, thinking then I would be rid of the pest. Before he got into the car--the whole family was waiting for him-- he asked if I would not go to Washington and speak to Mr.Harrison of the Washington Post on his behalf. I said "No" most emphatically and that if he wanted promotion the thing for him to do was to learn decent manners and work so hard and so well that he would attract the attention of his employers and they would attend to the matter of promotion without any suggestion from me. It is the behavior of cubs like Otis was and Clifford is that make me favor compulsory military training, which should begin at the age of sixteen and last for about three years. In other words society should be protected by segregating the adolescent and subjecting them to necessary discipline.

Monday, 9 April; hazy and warm. Left with wife for Washington

at 10.30 a.m. Parked the car just inside the District line to avoid traffic and took the street car to the business section. We went to the town house, 1026 17th Street, and made a thorough inspection listing the things that should be done to make it attractive so that it would rent quickly. We got back at 4.30 p.m. after stopping in Frederick for supplies. Had a telephone call from Mr. Houck saying that I could return the pony and I telephoned sister to have Lewis attend to it. I was quite elated that I had made the trip to Washington and back without accident because I had dreaded it on account of my defective eyesight. I realized that I had no business trying to drive on a public highway, but this very realization made me extremely careful. Not only was it difficult for me to see dimly large objects more than a hundred yards ahead but I could not tell whether a car was approacing or leaving, and roads, bridges, and gates, looked as if they were too narrow for a single car. Worse still, every shadow looked to me as if it were solid so that the shadow of a telephone pole across the road looked to me like a log and instinctively I would slow up and be prepare to stop before colliding with it. Nor could I see either traffic lights or signs. All this put me on a terrific nervous tension. When I reached home after this ordeal I was limp.

Tuesday, 10 April, fair and mild. Lewis returned the pony to Mr.Houck who refunded the purchase price. I went to town at 11 a.m. with the laundry and to bring Lewis out. In the afternoon I drove the truck to town for servicing and brought out a load of flower boxes, which was another nervous ordeal. Lewis hauling wood for us.

~~(Johns Hopkins Hospital, re eyes; 10 April, brown folder.)~~ omit

Wednesday, 11 April; raining most of the day. Had a neighbor cleaning out the stable. Not feeling well, probably result of strain of driving. Went to bed at 8 p.m. last night and slept through until 8.30 p.m. today. Feel enervated and averse to sitting up. In the late afternoon I filed accumulated correspondence. Rather difficult because I had to use a magnifying glass to read the names. Have no appetite whatever. No movement of bowels for several days.

Thursday, 12 April; showery and cold. Slept about sixteen ~~hours~~ hours last night and today. One of the Sheets girls brought up the March rent for the lower house. Tried to do a little typewriting. Feel much enervated and without any desire to sit up or do anything. Probably this is partly due to the fact that I cannot see to read.

Friday, 13 April; cloudy and showers. Went to town with wife in the afternoon and left lawn mower to be sharpened. Went to the bank and executed new will. Feeling badly, no appetite, and overpowering lassitude.

Saturday, 14 April; fair and mild. Sister and three helpers cutting and tying narcissus. I raked up a border along the Whippoorwill terrace. Tried to do a little writing in the afternoon. Feeling a little better than yesterday, but very tired and sleepy.

Sunday, 15 April; clear and bright. Sister and two helpers working with narcissus. Many people out to see the flowers and I took in about $2.50 at five cents a dozen. Mrs.Daniels took 18 dozen, but refused to pay 90 cents, saying 75 cents was enough. It probably was for her. A Mr.Pope and family were out from Washington. He said his sister was dean or deaness of Hood College in Frederick. He said he had bought a little place near Clifton and comes out every Saturday.

Monday, 16 April; raining last night and until noon.

Sister and Lewis made up the first shipment of narcissus which he took to Gaithersburg for Washington. Billie cutting wood in the afternoon. I felt better than for two weeks. Did a little typing. Have reached page 2,900 and Korea in September, 1927.

Tuesday, 17 April; cloudy and showers. Did not sleep well last night because of rheumatism in my wrists. Lewis took second shipment of narcissus to the express office at Gaithersburg. Sister and three helpers working with the narcissus until it began to rain. Not feeling well today because of rheumatism, especially in my wrists, besides my partial blindness.

Wednesday, 18 April; clear and pleasant. Lewis took narcissus to Gaithersburg and brought Eunice back with him. Sister and helpers working with narcissus. Agent for the Farmers Cooperative Automobile Insurance Company called and took application for renewal of insurance on the sedan. Not feeling well. Wrote Dr.Woods of the Wilner Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins for an appointment.

Thursday, 19 April; cloudy and showers. Lewis took another shipment of narcisus. Sister and helpers working with the flowers. Feeling languid and incapable of effort. I telephoned Mr.Houck to ascertain if he had found a horse for me yet. He said some one told him I had already bought one. He promised to get me one within a week.

Friday, 20 April; cloudy and cool. Lewis took more flowers to Gaithersburg. I took wife to town in the afternoon for supplies. Mr.Houck called up to tell me he would have a horse to show me tomorrow. Some visitors were out for flowers. They were much interested in knowing that I was going to the Wilner Institute for my eyes.

(Memo.re eye trouble, 20 April, brown folder)

20 April 1934.

"Memorandum re

"Eye Failure During Last Six Months.

"Previous condition: Excellent.

"Present Condition:

"Cannot read ordinary print or headlines of newspapers.

"Cannot distinguish the road or an automobile on the road much beyond 300 yards.

"Cannot distinguish 'Stop' or other road signs.

"Cannot recognize faces beyond six feet.

"Distinguish colors with difficulty. Silver and copper coins look exactly alike.

"Cannot read typewriting or see my own signature as I write it.

"Have experienced absolutely no pain or sense of eye strain. Strong light not painful as it was six months ago.

"Glasses are of little or no help. For the first time in 40 years I can see about as well without glasses as with them.

"History:

"First twenty years sight was exceptionally keen, quick, and discriminating.

"At 24 began to have headaches and discovered I could not see as well in night classes as others. An occulist said I had slight astigmatism, same in both eyes. Have worn glasses continuously during waking hours since.

"At 34 got a stronger paid of glasses.

"At 44 got first pair of bifocals.

"At 54 got a stronger pair of bifocals.

"At 64 got still stronger bifocals, but no improvement. Two months later got a pair of strong glasses for reading only, but they were useless.

"Previous eye trouble:

"In 1920 I washed my face in a dimly lighted lavatory on the Rome Express and got cinders in my eyes, which became badly inflamed and caused great distress.

"In 1921 I visited my farm when covered with snow and the sun shone brightly. The next day my eyes became badly inflamed and felt as if cinders were in them. Consulted an occulist in Washington,D.C., who said I had 'conjunctivitis,' or something like that. It was cured in two weeks.

"In 1923 similar trouble developed in Argentina after exposure to summer sun and semidesert conditions. Also cured in about two weeks.

"No further attack, but ever since until recently my eyes were exceedingly sensitive to strong light, either natural or artificial, and I formed the habit of carrying colored glasses.

"Conjectures of a layman as to possible causes of present failure:

"(1) Age: 65. Perhaps a change occurs normally at about that age.

"(2) Excessive use: I have been a hard reader, student, and observer for more than 50 years, much of it by artificial light and for long hours continuously.

N.B.--In 1932 I began writing manuscript in shorthand. My shorthand has a tendency to become microscopic and therefore trying on the eyes. In the summer of last year, 1933, I began to transcribe this manuscript on the typewriter. In November I first began to experience difficulty in seeing my notes. I persisted, however, and have finished nearly 3,000 pages of

typewriting. There is yet more to be done.

Also for the last eight or ten years it has been my habit to read an hour or two in bed before sleeping.

"(3) Snow blindness. My eye trouble coincided almost exactly with the first snow fall of last winter. The snow has been almost continuous since until about two weeks ago.

"(4) Sun blindness. I have said that my eyes have been very sensitive to strong light for several years. Twice last fall and twice since the beginning of the year I drove the car up the mountain in the late afternoon with the sun shining directly into my eyes. I was caught without colored glasses and there was no way of avoiding the direct rays. I was blinded and suffered acute pain.

"(5) Health. Uniformly excellent until the last three months, i.e., after the eye trouble developed. Whether the eye trouble was the first symptom of ill health, or a result, or the ill health the result of the depression following loss of eyesight, I cannot say. The ill health takes the form of irregularity and imperfect elimination, loss of appetite, poor circulation in the finger tips and consequent numbness, fleeting neuralgic pains about the body, and occasional tightness of the lungs (I have long suspected I had a chronic form of catarrh.).

"(6) Smoking. Habitually I have smoked from fifteen to thirty cigars every 24 hours the last 20 years or more. Aside from occasional irritation when the smoke gets into my eyes, it has seemed to contribute to my general health and peace of mind. I cannot see that it is a factor, but mention it as a possibility.

"(7) Alcohol. While traveling abroad I acquired the habit of drinking 'in moderation,' especially the excellent and cheap wines of Italy and France. Since returning to the U.S. at the beginning of 1930 I have purchased no alcohol except a few trial cases of the 3.2 beer slop. That was so disappointing that last year I tried my hand at making a considerable quantity of blackberry and grape wine. It also is disappointing, but it has alcohol in it and I have been drinking the equivalent of a bottle a day. That quantity of real wine would be perfectly harmless. But during the days of the 'noble experiment' I recall reading of some kinds of home brew that developed a virulent form of alcohol that caused blindness. It is that recollection that leads me to mention this possible factor, although it seems incredible to me.

"The foregoing was written primarily for my own satisfaction as a record of my present state and ideas concerning it, and partly with the thought that you would be interested. No doubt much of it is irrelevant, but some of it should be relevant and ~~should~~ answer some of the questions you will ask. I know that as a specialist with responsibilities you are busy and pressed for time, but I believe you will be interested in this record of one of your cases.

"What I want, of course, is a diagnosis of the trouble, a prescription--if it will do any good, and a forecast of the probable course of the trouble, to the end that I can make such adjustments as can be made. Were it not for the mental vision of what I have seen--and I have seen more than most men-- I would be 'desolated' at the loss of sight, but because of those memories I am philosophical--

except for my unfinished book.

"Written for my personal satisfaction and for your information.

Very truly yours,

Leon M. Estabrook.

Saturday, 21 April; clear and cool. Lewis sold some narciss in Frederick for nine dollars for which I gave him half. I drove to Mr.Houck's and bought a small black pony, said to have come from Virginia, about six years old and in good condition, named ~~Bobby~~ Billie, for which I paid $105, with the understanding that if he was not a satisfactory worker I could bring him back. ~~Bobby~~ Billie was heavy built and shapely for his size and ten years ago would probably have sold for about $50. Before I agreed to buy him Mr.Houck had the pony hitched with another horse to a wagon and then by himself to a sled, with both of which he worked as well as could be expected.

Sister Nellie, Eunice, and three helpers working with the narcissus. Trumpet varieties about gone. Sister advised ~~it~~ letting people come out and pick narcissus two dozen for five cents in the field or two dozen tied for shipping in the packing room for fifteen cents. These low rates were for the purpose of disposing of as many flowers in the field or at the farm as possible because the shipping markets were glutted.

Sunday, 22 April; clear and cool. Sister and helpers picking narcissus for shipment. Many visitors out who took flowers at five cents a dozen and I took in about four dollars. In the afternoon I went down to Winworth to see mother. She was well but lonely. I chloroformed four kittens.

(Lubin, 22 April, brown folder)

22 April 1934.

"Dear Mr. Lubin:

"I have your letter of the 17th with inclosed memorandum of project.

"First, I must tell you that my eyes have failed me within the last few months to such an extent that while I can still operate the typewriter from long habit, I cannot read what I have written--so you will understand that I write with difficulty and will excuse glaring blunders.

"As I understand the project, you are proposing to buy a large tract of land and establish a school or college for teaching agriculture and the social sciences, the professors and students to participate in the work and management, the whole to be run on a non-profit basis. Incidentally it is thought this might prove an attractive refuge for Jewish people excluded from or persecuted in Germany and that Jewish people in this country would contribute to the financing of the project. If this is not correct, it is because I had much difficulty in reading your letter and memorandum.

"If I were to criticise it would be along the following lines:

"Why organize a new school for teaching agriculture when there is an agricultural college fully equipped in each of the 48 States? Why establish courses in social sciences when most of the universities already carry such courses? Why attempt to teach the social sciences on a farm rather than in one of the great social and industrial centers?

"The proposal to have professors and students work on the farm is an ideal one, but purely theoretical. The idea has been tried out many timss and never with complete success. The physical exercise and discipline of manual work should, theoretically, be of great value to any one, but somehow intellectual pursuits and farm labor don't

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mix very well. The physical exhaustion that comes from labor unfits one for study, or rather interferes with study. Remember the experience of the Brooke farmers' experiment.

"Can a non-profit enterprise succeed in this country? Of course, most farming has been done on a non-profit basis in this country for many years, but the farmer hangs on in the hope of a profit. So far as I can recall all non-profit enterprises with agriculture as a principal industry were successful for a time only as the result of religious enthusiasm, persecution, or temporary necessity, and ultimately disintegrated with the passing of a generation or the conditions that held the group together for a time. The hope of individual gain and profit seems to be deeply embeded in human nature and is therefore one of the most permanent incentives to undergo sacrifice, hardship, and unselfish cooperation to accomplish some purpose. Another thing: Will the students interested mainly in the social sciences be at all interested in the practical details of agriculture? Of a hundred human beings taken at random only a small proportion will be interested in agriculture; all the rest will be interested in other phases of human activity.

"So much for obvious criticisms.

"These criticisms are largely answered by your statement that the project is really a colonization scheme for Jewish refugees. That is a horse of another color. As such it should have a strong appeal to Jewish people of wealth in the United States. The project is very similar to the non-profit cooperative communities established in Palestine by the Zionist Executive and supported largely by contributions fó from America. Such a community established in California should have even a stronger appeal to our people. The persecution of Jews in Germany, and the desire to live under California sunshine in a land where Hitler persecution is as yet impossible,

should prove a sufficient incentive to hold the professorial and and student body to the non-profit scheme, at least until times shall have greatly improved, as they surely will, because time cures all things, even persecutions and business depressions.

"Your project should succeed if, if, and if:

"If sufficient funds are forthcoming to finance the project. The expenses will probably be somewhat more than any one can foresee.

"If you succeed in rounding up a competent managerial staff. This is absolutely essential to success. It should consist of at least four branches or departments: Administrative, to look after the necessary paper work; Farm Management, to look after the biological details, soils, irrigation, propagation and seeding, harvesting, combatting insect pests and plant and animal diseases; Marketing, to look after the grading, packing, shipment, and sale of products; and Teaching, professors and teachers to cover the curriculum. As a capstone, there should be a leader capable of coordinating the activities of the organization and, most important of all, of inspiring the staff and student body with ideals and sufficient enthusiasm to ignore or minimize the non-profit purposes of the organization.

"If the project is pursued from the beginning with the frank acknowledgment that it is not likely to be self-sustaining, it is more likely to succeed than if dependence is placed upon an income from the enterprise, especially during the initial years.

"I can think of no one better qualified to head up such a project than yourself, and with you at the head and the various 'ifs' I have mentioned provided for it should succeed.

"In any event I wish you every success, and I shall be interested in knowing the outcome.

Sincerely yours,

Leon M. Estabrook.

Monday, 23 April; clear and pleasant. Lewis took flowers to Gaithersburg for shipment to Washington. In the afternoon I took him to Mr.Houck's to ride Bobby back. I stopped in Frederick to buy a nww halter and some twine for the flowers. Sister and her helpers still working with the narcissus.

Tuesday, 24 April; fair forenoon, squall afternoon. Lewis took a shipment of flowers to Gaithersburg in the forenoon and after he returned began plowing at Winworth. Sister and three helpers picking and tying narcissus. Took wife to town about 3 p.m. in a bad squall that came up. She wanted to see the county commissioners and have them put up a sign on the pike pointing to Shookstown, because so many people coming to Sunny Hill missed the road and had difficulty in finding our place. She failed to find the commissioners at the Court House.

I called on Dr.Hedges and after a short wait was examined. He said I had neuritis, that my blood pressure was a little low, that my heart and lungs were sound, and temperature below normal. He gave me some medicine without labels and asked for a sample of urine.

I took the halter I had purchased yesterday to the harness shop to exchange it for a larger one. On the way got caught in a gust and my umbrella was turned inside out. For about ten minutes the wind blew a hurricane and a heavy rain dashed horixontally up the street. On the way out the meadows were under water. Just as we were eating supper a large new car drove up, turned around, and went back.

Wednesday, 25 April; cloudy and cold. Lewis took flowers to Gaithersburg. The storm of yesterday spoiled the flowers in the field. I did a few odd jobs but spent most of the day lying down overcome with lassitude.

Thursday, 26 April; cloudy and cold. At noon I drove to town to leave a sample of urine with the doctor. Sister and helpers picked some flowers that opened since the storm. I was uneasy all day and could not rest.

Friday, 27 April; showers and cold with high wind. Sister Nellie and Eunice came up in the morning but it was too wet to pick flowers. Wife and I got up early, had breakfast, and I drove to town and parked the sedan. Then took the bus to Baltimore for an examination of my eyes. At the bus station I took a taxi to the office of Dr. Woods where I had a definite appointment. I was ushered into a waiting room which was constantly full of patients. I waited far beyond the time of my appointment and was very impatient because I was restless, could not read, and did not want to miss the return bus that left Baltimore at 1 p.m., because if I did I would have to drive out from Frederick in the dark. I explained this difficulty to the doctor's secretary who said she would tell the doctor. In about fifteen minutes my name was called. I was ushered into a laboratory. Dr.Woods was a large hard looking man of early middle age with gruff manners and a gutteral voice. He asked some questions and made a record. I handed him a copy of the memorandum I had written through which he glanced hurriedly and attached to his record. Then he ordered--not invited, or ushered, or requested, but ordered me to sit in a chair where my head was held fast with a clamp. Next he focussed a small electric ~~eye~~ light into my eyes and with magnifying glasses scanned them critically. He asked what glasses I was using. I showed him my collection, bifocal, reading, the ten cent pair, a large magnifying glass, and a case with three small magnifying lenses of different power. He glanced at them casually. Before I could replace them in my pocket he ordered me into a small room and I was seated before some apparatus and ordered to look straight ahead. He moved pencils of colored lights along scales

at right angles before my eyes and I was to tell him when I could or could not distinguish the lights. Sometimes I could see the lights and other times they would fade out. The next stunt was to try to read letters on a card in the main room. I could not distinguish even the larger letters at six feet. Then he ordered me to sit near a small stand in the corner. I did so. He sat near me and began to sort out lenses to try on my eyes. While he was doing this I looked across the room and saw a pair of glasses I had left. I rose to get them. The doctor ordered me sharply "Sit down." It was in the tone of voice a father in an ugly mood would use to his little son. It angered me, because it was so unnecessary and so inexcusable, so I paid no attention to it but walked across the room deliberately, retrieved my property, and back with equal deliberation. The doctor was sitting bolt upright and speechless. Then he tried a number of lenses in a frame somewhat like the frame of a pair of glasses. For all of these trials he made a record on blank forms and had quite a collection when he was through. When he had finished he motioned me to a seat beside his desk. After glancing through his record he turned to me and announced that I would probably recover my sight, at least partially, in the course of four to six months; that the outer eye was in good condition; that there was no sign of infection; that I probably had neuritis that had affected the ciliary threads of the optic nerve that prevented the nerve from coordinating its impressions into images; that no medicine or operation could be of any help; and that the thing to do was to find the cause of the neuritis and remove it. He said I should have a thorough physical examination, including teeth, respiratory system, and X-rays. I told him to go ahead and make the appointments and write or telephone date and place.

(1934, April, S.E.)

T--1976

I was much relieved at the doctor's assurance that I would recover my sight, even with the qualification that it would never be as good as formerly. The neuritis I felt sure could be overcome.

Seeing no taxi as I came out of the doctor's office I walked to the bus station. It was the longest walk I had taken for months, but it was on smooth city pavements and down hill and I rather enjoyed it. I could distinguish nothing clearly in the shop windows and could read none of the street or house signs. It seemed strange to be walking in an American city and not know the name of the street I was on or the names of the larger buildings. At the bus station lunch counter I had a cup of coffee and a smoke.

The ride to and from Baltimore was not very comfortable and I could distinguish little of the landscape. Arrived at Frederick I found the car where I had left and drove home. Facing the afternoon sun was painful. I stopped for a moment at Winworth to tell mother and sister something of the result of my visit.

Saturday, 28 April; clear and cold. Took wife to town for ~~groce~~ groceries and back at 3 o'clock. Many visitors were out for narcissus, but at two dozen for five cents the receipts did not pay for the trouble of wrapping and making change. Besides many of the visitors wanted to talk. I had difficulty in making change because I could distinguish no difference in color of coins and but little difference between pennies and dimes and quarters and nickles. I usually solved the difficulty by holding out a handful of coin and asking the customer to pick out his change.

Sunday, 29 April; clear and cool. ~~Miss~~ Mrs. Ross brought up some friends from Baltimore before we were dressed. They drove down to the gap just above the narcissus field and in trying to turn around the car slipped sidewise on the wet ground into a stone fence. They had to telephone to Frederick for a trouble wagon with a derrick

to extricate the car. I visited Winworth to see mother and sister. Charlie and Eunice were there. Had many visitors in the late afternoon that kept me busy until after 7 p.m. Total receipts about one dollar.

Monday, 30 April; clear and cool. Sister and helpers picking and tying narcissus for last shipment. Had a few visitors for flowers. One couple came after sundown.

I was not feeling well and wife had Dr.Hedges come out. He left a new supply of medicine. He said it would be difficult to locate the source of the poison which was the cause of the neuritis and eye trouble. After he left I sat in the sunshine and enjoyed it.

(Health history notes, 30 April, brown folder)

30 April 1934.

Health History Notes

re Leon M. Estabrook.

Age, 65 (born March 24,1869).

Childhood, delicate.

Arm, left, broken at elbow from fall, 4th year.

Finger, right third, end cut off, 6th year.

Earache in sixth year.

Leg-ache, knees, at night from eighth to fifteenth year.

Pneumonia in 12th year.

Malaria (periodic chills and fever) several times during youth, and without chills in 25th year.

Teeth: Trouble began about this time, 25th year, and continued from time to time until all were removed, except three, in 61st year.

Catarrh, chronic, began about 26th year. Treatment at that time of no avail and discontinued. Subject to colds in the head for many years.

Nosebleed frequent until about 50th year.

Neuritis, severe, right side head, neck, shoulder and arm, 46th year, ending with extraction of four teeth.

Eczema. Began in mild form in 40th year, an intolerable itching following a cold bath and lasting about thirty minutes. Discontinued cold baths account of it. It broke out in rather acute form in 1918, appearing all over the body except face and head as great welts that began small, enlarged and coalesced. Each attack lasted about 72 hours, at intervals of a week or ten days. Seemed to be induced by nervous tension, fatigue, a chill, or overheating. It lasted for ten years, but gradually

diminished in severity and became less frequent as time went on. Apparently I simply outgrew it. But even yet a light attack may result from any one of the causes I have mentioned.

Typhoid, 1928, contracted in India and cured in hospital at Aden.

Eating: Always a light eater and particular about food, with violent aversion to fats and oils and strong aversion to 'greens.'

Weight: Always underweight. From 24th to 54th year my weight with clothing never varied two pounds from 132. Kind, quality, or quantity of food made not the slightest difference.

Smoking: Smoked first cigar in 28th year, enjoyed it, and in ten years became a steady smoker, and then a hard smoker--15 to 30 a day for last twenty years.

Drinking: While traveling abroad 1923 to 1929, inclusive, I acquired the habit of drinking wines and other liquors in moderation. Since returning to U.S. in 1930 I have had only home-made wines and cider--vile stuff.

Work: Active and strenuous 10th to 62d year--farm, school, office, administration, and travel; retired 62d year to mountain farm and complete change of life. Physically too weak for manual labor of any kind I turned to writing--steady and rather long hours.

Health: Except as noted my general health has been excellent and I could set the pace for younger and stronger men either in mental work or travel endurance. Up to December last I felt exceptionally well and had gained slightly in weight.

Recent and present condition: In November last my eyes began to give trouble. By January I could neither read nor write (except on typewriter from long habit). This meant a complete change of life. Both mental and physical depression

followed. Then loss of appetite, irregularity, extreme weakness, fugitive neuritic pains in all parts of body, exhaustion, apathy, and a constant desire to sleep. Along with it was noticeable and painful numbness in my fingers and wrists.

Medical attention: Frankly I have a strong aversion to both doctors and medicines and little faith. Time, patience, and a little common sense usually do the trick. This time the trick has not turned. Last week I arranged for the appointment with Dr.Woods about the eye trouble and with Dr.Hedges of Frederick for general health. He gave me a preliminary examination. Said my heart was OK, blood pressure and temperature below normal, and my troubles were probably due to neuritis, caused by poison from some source, which he would try to determine by elimination. He asked for a sample of urine, but have not heard the result of his examination. He gave me a tonic, unlabled, but which I suppose is quinine and iron. This has improved my appetite and diminished the desire to sleep.

Leon M. Estabrook.

Tuesday, 1 May; clear and pleasant. Lewis took a small shipment of narcissus to Gaithersburg and brought back some corn and oats for feed.

I went to Baltimore by bus and had a physical examination by Dr. Gay, which was very thorough and searching, but did not learn the result. ~~He was~~ He was a delightful gentleman to meet, cheery and courteous, the very antithesis of the brutal brusqueness of Dr. Woods. He seemed much interested in and greatly puzzled by the condition of my hands and wrists and feet and ankles and in their color and temperature which were clearly abnormal. In his office and laboratories a new record of my case was started. As he made the examination he dictated to a young lady stenographer on the other side of a screen. He said he wanted X-rays taken of my chest and teeth and agreed to arrange appointments for me.

Again I walked to the bus station. Upon inquiry at the station of a colored porter I was directed to a bar nearby. I found it in the basement of a new small hotel. It was the first bar I had seen since the dry law went into effect and I had my first whiskey and soda in the United States since that direful event.

The battery in the sedan had run down. I had to use sister's car to drive to Frederick and back. In the afternoon I had the garage send out a live battery and take the old one in for recharging.

(Respiratory notes, 1 May, brown folder)

(1934, May, S.H.)

Tuesday. 1 May: clear and pleasant. Lovie took a small shipment of merchandise to Gettysburg and brought back some corn and oats for feed.

I went to Baltimore by bus and had a physical examination by Dr. Gay, which was very thorough and searching, but did not learn the result. Dr. Gay is a delightful gentleman to meet, cheery and courteous, the very antithesis of the brutal brusqueness of Dr. Moody. He seemed much interested in and greatly puzzled by the condition of my hands and wrists and feet and ankles and in their color and temperatures which were clearly abnormal. In his office and laboratories a new record of my case was started. As he made the examination he dictated to a young lady stenographer on the other side of a screen. He said he wanted X-rays taken of my chest and teeth and agreed to arrange appointments for me.

Again I walked to the bus station. Upon inquiry at the station of a colored porter I was directed to a bar nearby. I found it in the basement of a new small hotel. It was the first bar I had seen since the dry law went into effect and I had my first whiskey and soda in the United States since that direful event.

The battery in the sedan had run down. I had to use Alster's car to drive to Frederick and back. In the afternoon I had the garage send out a live battery and take the old one in for recharging.

(Respiratory notes. 1 May. Brown Tolbert)

1 May 1934.

"Notes on Respiratory System
of Leon M. Estabrook.

Age, 65 (Rockford, Ill.,March 24,1869).

Colds, about like other people.

Nosebleed, frequent, with or without apparent cause, from early childhood, becoming less frequent with age and ending almost entirely at 50.

Pneumonia, severe, at 12. Survived by a scratch.

Catarrh, treated for at 26 by specialist in Washington, but without avail. Has continued through theyears.

(Note 1). Within last six or eight months have noticed sudden discharge of mucous into nasal or mouth passages, as if it had accumulated in the head and were suddenly released; small flecks of mucous form in and tickle throat and are caught up and expelled.

(Note 2). In recent years dentists have noticed peculiar formation and color of flesh and mucous membrane back of teeth. This was caused by malformed teeth that were extracted many years ago. The teeth were too large and too many for the jaw, were forced out of position, some of them almost at right angles, and cavities were formed in the surrounding tissues to accommodate them.

I am a hard smoker, but began after I was 28 and have never inhaled smoke or retained nicotine in the mouth.

Leon M. Estabrook.

Wednesday, 2 May; clear and pleasant. For this day my notes are nearly illegible because of difficulty in seeing what I was writing. I went to Baltimore for an examination by Dr.Adams of nose, ear, and throat. I had rather dreaded this examination as some sort of an ordeal and because I fully expected him to find a chronic catarrhal condition. Since young manhood I had had trouble with a running nose as well as nosebleed. I had been told by a doctor friend many years ago that most people in Washington,D.C., were afflicted with catarrh and I thought I had it. However, Dr. Adams assured me that I did not and that my trouble was a common one due to overactivity of the turbinated bones. These he explained were three little bones back of the nose that secreted mucous, which was simply annoying but harmless and had nothing to do with health. In fact, he said I was in fine condition so far as nose, ears, and throat were concerned and not one of them was the source of my neuritis.

From the doctor's office I walked to the little hotel with the bar and restaurant in the basement. There I had a chicken sandwitch and a glass of beer. It was the first food I had really enjoyed for months. Also it was a pleasure to sit in a restaurant again surrounded by cheerful waitresses and guests. But how old I seemed, physically weak and nearly blind. I could not read the menu card or make change at the cashier's desk.

Thursday, 3 May;raining last night and today. A lady from Frederick brought out some friends to see the place and I told them to pick all the narcissus they wanted. Took wife to town in the afternoon for battery, bank, and groceries. I was very tired when we returned.

Friday, 4 May; cloudy and warm. Went to Baltimore and saw Dr. Woods. He said I was a problem and before deciding he wanted me

to have an X-ray taken of my chest and teeth. He expressed the opinion that it might be nicotine poisoning from smoking so much and so steadily for many years. After luncheon I went to Dr.Gay's office and saw him for a few minutes as he had requested. He also said I must have the X-rays taken. He said there was a peculiar condition of my blood that he did not understand.

Saturday, 5 May; clear and hot. Took wife to town for groceries and shopping. Saw Dr.Hedges and he talked of several things but expressed no opinion about my condition. I had explained to him that I was undergoing examination in Baltimore.He said he had a son in Johns Hopkins. Saw Dr. Eder, the dentist, and he advised me to have the X-Ray of my teeth taken in Baltimore.

Sunday, 6 May; fair and hot. Very sleepy and lying down most of the day. Very few visitors for flowers. Mother and sister came up in the afternoon. Mr.Price brought Otis out in the afternoon and they stayed for supper.

Monday, 7 May; a beautiful warm day. Sister Nellie and Lewis were up to help with the garden. I had Lewis drive me to town in the pickup with the laundry and typewriter that was in need of repairs. He drove in r%/ rather reckless fashion and made me nervous. A representative of the real estate firm in Washington called up to say that all the things I had asked to be done at the town house were finished and that the spring rush had prevented them from answering my letter. I suspected the letter had been overlooked until I wrote a second time.

At my last interview with Dr.Woods he asked me to stop smoking entirely for two weeks. I did so beginning with Saturday afternoon for the first time in thirty-five years, which meant dropping from twenty to thirty cigars a day to none. Curiously enough from the moment I said "This is the last smoke for two weeks," I had no

particular desire to smoke. This came as a great and very agreeable surprise to me because I had expected all sorts of trouble and complications.

Tuesday, 8 May; clear and pleasant. We were up early so that I could catch the bus for Baltimore to have the X-ray pictures taken of chest and teeth. The operators were to send the resulting pictures to Dr.Gay to become a part of the record he was building up. Again I had a nice luncheon at the little basement restaurant of the hotel near the bus station. Lewis was cultivating the peonies at the lower place.

Wednesday, 9 May; clear and pleasant. I walked to the lower place. Wheat poor in color and weak. Noticed that the tenants had moved some farm machinery from the shed to the barn. At the upper place I mowed a section of the lawn but most of the day was spent lying down in the Whippoorwill. Rather dull not to be able to read, write, or smoke.

Thursday, 10 May; clear and warm. In the afternoon sister came up to divide the dahlia roots. Lewis also was up to plow some of the gardens. I slept all night and most of the day. Too enervated with lassitude to attempt anything.

Friday, 11 May; clear and warm. Sister Nellie and Lewis planting dahlias and other things in the garden near the grape arbor. I took wife to town for laundry and groceries. Feeling very tired and chilly. Found that nothing had been done to my typewriter. The repairman loaned me another until mine could be fixed.

Saturday, 12 May; clear and pleasant. Lewis plowing peonies for first cultivation at upper place. I sowed lawn grass seed in one end of the garden where wife was to have a flower garden last year but did not get around to it. Slept the rest of the day. Had post cards from Thelma and Ethel saying that on the 9th they were on their way

from California to Washington,D.C.

Sunday, 13 May; clear and pleasant. Spent most of the day sleeping.

(Emma Burton, 13 May, brown folder)

Monday, 14 June; cloudy and threatening showers. I slept most of the day. Iris beginning to bloom. Mother went to Washington to be with Eunice a few days. I was disappointed that stopping smoking had no ~~a~~ effect on my appetite. Never hungry and not interested in food. Don't see how I can recover strength without eating.

Tuesday, 15 May; raining last night and today. Remained indoors all day account of rain, mostly listening to the radio. A Mr.Jones from Hagerstown brought over a vacuum cleaner which we rented for one month for $3.50 intending to use it to give the houses a thorough spring cleaning.

Wednesday, 16 May; clear and cool. Sister disbudding peonies. I helped awhile but had difficulty in seeing the buds. Also mowed a little on the lawn. Took a little wine ~~last~~ last evening and slept well after it.

Thursday, 17 May; clear and cool. Lewis plowing gardens all day. I drove to town to visit the bank and do a little shopping. Shortly after I returned Thelma drove up ~~a~~ with her two babies and Ethel. She said the new car she was driving was presented to her by her husband, Mr.Price. Both she and Ethel looked very thin. They had very little to say about their trip. I felt much disinclined to do anything today.

Friday, 18 May; clear and hot. Drove to town with wife aerly. She took the bus for Washington and I the bus for Baltimore. She spent the day trying to find out about using our town house for selling peonies. I saw Dr.Woods who examined my eyes a second time. He said there was some improvement and that they would probably continue to improve, but very slowly. He thought it would be a matter of months and he asked me to return once a month. Then I saw Dr.Gay who said the X-ray pictures were entirely satisfactory and that there was nothing the matter with me that he could discover but a peculiar

condition of the blood vessels. He thought this condition would improve in time and with hot weather. He said the cause of my neuritis was a mystery. He suggested that I have a dentist examine one of my three remaining teeth as a possible source. He also asked that I call once a month. He gave me a prescription for iodide of potassium, saying it was a very old remedy that often gave good results in obscure cases although the doctors did not know why.

I came away much encouraged. If the eye doctor, the physician, the nose, ear and throat specialist, and the X-ray specialist, could find nothing the matter with me, and the eye doctor said that the sight would probably improve, it would seem that all I had to do was to build up my general health. I had already decided that I would not see them again and pay their extravagant fees for the sake of completing their interesting record of my case. I further decided to resume smoking cautiously and to continue to drink wine when I felt like it. I had my first smoke since quitting on the doctor's order because I felt that after all he was merely guessing.

Saturday, 19 May; clear and warm. Lewis and Billie were up early to cut down two large cherry trees near the Whippoorwill that were nearly dead. They finished the day by plowing the gardens and mowing the lawns. I picked some flowers for the vases and did a few odd jobs. Rather tired.

Sunday, 20 May; clear and hot. I cleaned the Whippoorwill with the vaccuum cleaner. Found a few first peony blossoms. Lewis Masser and wife, former owners of Sunny Hill, and eighteen children, their own and some others, came in a large truck. Mr.Masser said he would come next Friday with the idea of picking peonies for sale at one of the markets in Washington with which he was familiar. After they left we had several visitors. Among them was Mr.and

Mrs.Sheets with the April rent. He asked that I have the road fixed between his mail box and the lower house. I told him I would if he would pay his rent so promptly in advance as he had agreed to do but not otherwise. Saw a black snake more than three feet long near the narcissus field in the afternoon.

Monday, 21 May; cloudy and hot with showers in the afternoon. I went to town with the laundry and stopped to see Dr.Hedges. He gave me a tonic. Stopped at Winworth to leave check for $102.54 with sister for her half of narcissus proceeds. Did a little mowing in the afternoon. Also discussed with wife her plan of selling peonies at our town house in Washington. It meant a good deal of inconvenience to all of us but she had proposed it many times and this time her heart was set on it. So while I heartily disapproved of the project I said nothing to discourage it on the theory that one trial and failure would end future discussions of the subject, and at the same time a week or two in Washington would be in the nature of a vacation for her and she could meet some of her old friends in the neighborhood.

Sister Nellie brought up several armfulls of peony buds from the lower place.

Tuesday, 22 May; hot and showers. Sister and two helpers working in the peonies until 3 p.m. when stopped by showers. I took wife to town to try to find a colored woman who had been recommended as a good house cleaner. We found her. Upon returning I hung a screen door for the dining room. Very tired afterwards.

Wednesday, 23 May; a beautiful day. Last night Leslie Masser came to see about harvesting our wheat. He offered to harvest it for $2 an acre, or to harvest and thresh it for one half. I said I wanted time to consider the relative merits of the two proposals. Sister counting and tying peonies. I brought mother up after luncheon

(1934 May 5 S.S.) E--4656

Mrs. Dwyer with the April rent. He asked that I have the road fixed between his mail box and the lower house. I told him I would if he would pay his rent so promptly in advance as he had agreed to do but not otherwise. ? Saw a black snake more than three feet long near the Mexicans this in the afternoon.

Sunday, 21 May: cloudy and not with showers in the afternoon. I went to town with the laundry and stopped to see Dr. Keegan. He gave me a tonic. Stopped at Walworth to leave check for $10.34 with sister for her half of Mexicans proceeds. Did a little rowing in the afternoon. Also discussed with wife her X plan of selling peonies at our town house in Washington. It meant a good deal of inconvenience to all of us but she has proposed it many times and this time her heart was set on it. So while I heartily disapproved of the project I said nothing to discourage it on the theory that one trial and failure would end future discussions of the subject, and at the same time a week or two in Washington would be in the nature of a vacation for her and she could meet some of her old friends in the neighborhood.

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Wednesday, 23 May: a beautiful day. Last night Nellie Mosher came to see about harvesting our wheat. He offered to harvest it for $2 an acre, or to harvest and thresh it for one half. I said I wanted time to consider the relative merits of the two proposals. Sister counting and tying peonies. I brought mother up after lunch

4886--a

13 May 1934.

"Dear Emma:

"Just think of me as blind and trying to use a strange typewriter and therefore use your imagination in trying to read what I write. I can operate the typewriter from habit but cannot read what I write. I write in desperation because the little Schemer of schemes has not written and will not write until she feels like it.

"We had a terrible winter, the worst in a century. Spring is late, so late that the first furrow was turned here last week. The narcissi came along in fine shape and we were making record shipments until one afternoon a gust came up. There was hail, a gale almost like a cyclone, and then a tremendous rain. The narcissi were finished and completely done for, which meant a loss of about $300.

"During the last year we have lost three head of horses. I still have a little old mule that is a wonder for her age. Recently I bought a small horse to go with her. He came from Virginia. He is worth about $50, but I had to pay $105 for him.

"After my sight failed I went to Baltimore to consult specialists and after several weeks they are unable to tell me what is wrong. They are simply guessing--to the tune of twenty-five dollars a guess.

"Otis is back in Washington. Ethel and Thelma are on their way and will be back next week. It's too bad. They belong in California, or South Africa, or Australia.

"Sunny Hill looks very attractive so far as I can see. The iris began to bloom last night. The peonies will be blooming in a couple of weeks. I wish you might be here to see them.

"Hoping all is well with you, I and the Schemer of schemes send love and best wishes.

Affectionately,

Uncle Lee.

and she returned with sister. Had a telephone message from Lewis Masser that he would come tomorrow evening for peonies. It was a busy day and I was very tired.

Thursday, 24 May;clear morning, showers late afternoon and evening. I went to town for the negro woman to clean house and took her back in the late afternoon. She was large and portly and very much afraid of Sandy, the dog. He, on the other hand,had never seen a negro before and was very curious. To allay her fears I went with her to the house. I looked back and Sandy was at her heels with his head up and sniffing. He had discovered a new kind of smell.

Sister Nellie came up in the late afternoon and had supper with us and remained to help pack the peonies Masser was to take into Washington. He arrived with one helper at 8 p.m. and it was nearly 10 p.m. when the packing was finished.

Friday, 25 May; rain and cold. Took wife to town for the laundry and groceries and got back at 3 p.m. Had two calls from Lewis Masser that indicated that he was having trouble in disposing of the peonies in Washington. It was very difficult to understand him because of his gutteral, choppy way of speaking. It was very cold and disagreeable and the cold and rain were spoiling our chance to gather peonies for the 30th, the great peony day. Had two letters from the real estate agents in Washington and one from Otis.

Saturday, 26 May; fair and cold. Sister and three helpers cutting and tying peonies. I took the party to Lower Sunny Hill and brought a load of peonies back. Lewis Masser came out and accounted for his sales the last two days. He had $79 for 250 dozen peonies, which was rather disappointing so early in the season with the 30th just ahead. Had a few local customers. I worked until noon but had to rest through the afternoon.

Sunday, 27 May; clear and cold. Emma Burton and her relatives

from Richmond came just before noon and left at 1 p.m. Then Walker and wife, Otis and Ethel, came and stayed until after 4 p.m. They were followed by Dr.Jones and wife and an enfant terrible grandchild came from Washington and stayed until after 7 p.m. There were few other visitors and no peony sales. I was very tired from the succession of visitors and the strain of watching the badly spoiled little grandaughter of Dr.Jones who had never been taught to mind and whose surplus energy took the form of dashing from one object to another and grabbing it and throwing it down, all in a flash. I so itched to spank the child where spanking would do the most good that I could scarcely keep my hands off her and the effort was very trying. Sister Nellie and three helpers picked and tied peonies. Sister came back at dusk to help pack the peonies for which Lewis Masser was to call with his truck. Masser did not come.

Monday, 28 May; clear and warmer. We were all up and had an early breakfast. Otis and E wife left in the pickup with a load of peonies to be sold at the town house in Washington. Sister and helpers were up at 5 a.m. to help pack. I sent Lewis Blank with a truck load to Gaithersburg for shipment to Washington. Had a telephone call from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a number of calls from Frederick for peonies. I tried to help but could not do much because of my eyes. Wife and Otis returned after 7 p.m. Ethel cooked luncheon and dinner.

Tuesday, 29 May; cloudy and showers. Otis took wife /tø/tøwn/ to Washington in the sedan. Sister and two helpers picking and tying peonies. Lewis Masser came for a truck load and said he would return in the evening. Had taken in $125 so far, with two shipments and one Masser consignment yet to be accounted for. Otis brought Walker Chapman out to spend the night. Wife stayed in Washington

to sell the rest of her flowers. I was extremely tired.

Wednesday, 30 May; ~~fair and hot~~ Heavy fog last night and forenoon; clear afternoon.and hot. Stayed up last night until 11 p.m. waiting for Lewis Masser to come. Then went to bed. He actually came after midnight. Said he tried to awaken me at 4 a.m. He knocked at the wrong window and woke Walker instead of me and thought he was talking to me when he was talking with Walker, who was half asleep and did not know what he was saying.

While eating breakfast Ethel said she saw a truck near the barn. I went out and found Lewis Masser and a son. They had spent several hours sleeping in their truck. Sister Nellie and helpers came about that time and helped pack flowers for the truck. Otis ~~took~~ Walker and I and mother to the cemetery with one lot of flowers for ~~m~~ father's grave and one for a relative of Walker's wife. A number of visitors came during the day. Wife telephoned she would stay in Washington until tomorrow.

Thursday, 31 May; fair and hot. Sister and helpers working with the peonies and I took a shipment to the express office in Frederick for a firm in New York. Lewis Masser came in the afternoon with $64 for the peonies he sold the day before. I had an early supper with mother and sister at Winworth. Ethel drove out from Washington with wife about dusk. Then Otis came out in an old Lafayette model of 1923 car he had bought from Mr.Price. He was to pay thirty dollars for the car that originally cost $7,000.

Friday, 1 June; clear and hot. Lewis took a shipment of peonis to Gaithersburg for Washington. After luncheon I took wife to town for groceries and other things. Lewis cleaned up the oil cooking range in the Cricket House. I made a second trip to town for wicks and oil. Otis and Ethel thought they would like to occupy the Cricket House for awhile and cook their own meals, Otis to drive to W~~a~~ his

to sell the rest of her flowers. I was extremely tired.

Tuesday, 10 May: Rain again. Busy for last night and tomorrow; other afternoon and hot. Stayed on last night until 11 o'c. waiting for Dewie Hauser to come. Then went to bed. He normally came after midnight. Said he tried to awaken me at 1 a.m. He knocked at the wrong window and woke Walter Isaacs of 90 and thought he was talking to me when he was talking with Walter, who was half asleep and did not know what he was saying.

While eating breakfast Ethel said she saw a truck near the barn. I went out and found Dewie Hauser and a son. They had arrived several hours sleeping in their truck. Sister Nellie and helpers came about that time and helped pack flowers for the truck. Otis Walker and I and mother to the cemetery with one lot of flowers for K Tobin's grave and one for a relative of Walker's wife. A number of visitors were during the day. Nita telephoned she would stay in Washington until tomorrow.

Thursday, 11 May: Fair and hot. Sister and helpers working with the peonies and I took a shipment to the express office in Pendelton for a flight in New York. Dewie Hauser came in the afternoon with $64 for the peonies he sold the day before. I had an early supper with mother and sister at Hillworth. Ethel drove out from Washington with wife about dusk. Then Otis came out in an old Lafayette model of 1923 car he had bought from Mr. Price. He was to pay thirty dollars for the car that originally cost $1,000.

Friday, 1 June: clear and hot. Dewie took a shipment of peonies to Tollersburg for Washington. After luncheon I took wife to town for groceries and other things. Dewie cleaned up the oil cooking range in the Cricket house. I made a second trip to town for white and oil. Otis and Ethel thought they would like to occupy the Cricket house for awhile and cook their own meals. Otis to drive to Mr. His

office in Washington and back daily, a distance of 100 miles. I felt that this arrangement could not last very long but said nothing thinking it was better to let the young couple find out the disadvantages for themselves.

Expecting Lewis Masser out in the evening for a truck load of peonies.

Wife was not very successfull with her venture in selling peonies retail from our town house in Washington.

I was feeling better than usual and attributed it to the change from cold to hot weather.

Saturday, 2 June; clear and hot; I cleaned up about the packing room in the basement of the Whippoorwill. Had a plumber out to fix a leaking pipe in the oil range. Otis returned about 2 o'clock. Later he took Ethel to town and he brought out some paper packing boxes. Sister and helpers were up ~~for~~ awhile. Had a few visitors and made some sales.

~~(Marshall, 2 June, brown folder).~~ amt

(Ad "For Sale" lower Sunny Hill.

Note: Decided to try to sell the lower place while it had a beautiful crop of growing wheat on it, because in my poor physical condition and semi-blindness I did not want to be bothered with it. Bought originally to grow feed for the team it was no longer used for that purpose. Also it was out of sight and was usually neglected, and yet I was responsible for its management. In fact I wanted to sell both places becaue I washo longer interested in growing things, preferred to spend my time in writing, eyes permitting, and did not want to be bothered with other things

Sunday, 3 June; a lovely day. Sister and Eunice were up picking peonies for awhile. Walker and family were up in the afternoon. Only a few visitors and sales during the day. Feeling better than usual until I stumbled and fell and not feeling so well after the shock.

Monday, 4 June; clear nd pleasant. Drove to town with laundry. Saw Dr.Hedges who said he thought I was improving. He showed me a fine specimen of ghinko tree in his side yard, the largest I have seen outside the botanical garden at Tokio. Saw Dr.Eder who tested my three remaining teeth and said they were sound. Sent our last shipment of peonies to Washington. I pruned the euonimus vine at the Cricket House and fixed a window. In the afternoon I planted two rows of sweet corn and one of peas. After supper I picked some pink peony buds for the convent. Four ladies came up to see the place and asked to be shown the view from the Whippoorwill veranda.

Tuesday, 5 June; a fine fair day. Wife and Ethel went to town for supplies. I cut some weeds in the forenoon. In the afternoon Mr.Hayes, a representative of the Continental Fire Insurance Company, came out to survey and map the buildings. He had two women and some children with him who spent their time exploring the place. I gave them all some flowers when they came to leave.

Wednesday, 6 June; clear and warm. Otis, who had been driving to Washington and back daily, did not go today. I drove to town for my typewriter. The repairman said he would allow $15 for it on a new machine costing $60. I said I would make no decision until I knew whether or not I was to recover my sight. In the afternoon came showers and a thunder storm that cut off the electric current and we had to get supper on the oil stove.and eat by lantern light. After we were through the current came on again.

Thursday, 7 June, clear and pleasant. In the forenoon I pruned the evergreen trees near the garage and the Whippoorwill

that were spreading too wide and in the way. In the afternoon I cut some weeds and grass in the long grape arbor. Several visitors were out for flowers. Otis did not come out from Washington this evening. Otis has discovered that the big car he bought from Mr. Price takes lots of gasolene and he was short of money.

Friday, 8 June; Wife and Ethel went to town for laundry and groceries. Otis came in the ~~xx~~ evening. Several visitors were out for flowers. Peonies passing. I cut some weeds.

Last night when I showed wife a draft of advertisement for the "Sale, Exchange, or Rent" of Sunny Hill she refused to look at it.

(Memo,regarding lease of lower Sunny Hill, brown folder.)

June 18 1934.

"For Sale, Exchange, or Rent:

Sunny Hill Farms.

--

"These two farms are on Catoctin Mountain, on the Shookstown Road, about five miles northwest of Frederick, Maryland, one-half mile south of High Knolb and a mile or more north of Braddock Heights. Both are isolated and both command a fine view of Frederick and the surrounding country.

"Upper Sunny Hill runs to the top of the third peak north of Braddock Heights and contains about 66 acres, of which 24 acres are in cultivation and the remainder in woods. It has three dwellings, one ó a bungalow of six rooms, with steam heat, modern plumbing, bath, and electricity; the other two picturesque stone cabins; a barn, a double garage, tool, poultry, and other necessary buildings. Most of the cultivated ground is in lawns, orchards, shrubbery, and flower gardens, including three acres in narcissi and three in peonies--both money makers. From the balcony of one of the stone cabins one can see Loudon County on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and across the Monocacy Valley the eastern hills of Maryland and to the hills surrounding Gettysburg. Elevation about 1100 feet. Ideal for a family residence, country retreat, sanitarium, flower farm, trucking, or poultry.

"For sale on easy terms, or exchange, at $7,000. Rent by the year $600.

"Lower Sunny Hill, adjoining upper place on side nearest Frederick, contains about 58 acres, of which about 24 is in cultivation and rest in woods. It is improved with a seven room house, water and electricity, a barn and necessary outbuildings. It has a bearing apple orchard of about two acres, also set with peonies, the money

makers, and this season fifteen acres of fine wheat and a good stand of clover and timothy. It has excellent building sites overlooking Frederick and the Valley. An ideal country residence, trucking and poultry farm.

"For sale on easy terms at $5,000. Rent $300 a year.

"Both places for sale together on easy terms at $10,999; for exchange at $11,000; for rent at $780 a year.

"Both places within fifty miles of Baltimore and Washington. Cost owner several times price asked.

"Reason for selling or renting: Owner has lost both eyesight and interest in these wonderful and interesting Sunny Hill Farms and can no longer manage them as they should be managed.

(1034,June,S.H.) E--4893

Saturday, 9 June; raining and cool all day. Otis drove to Washington to put in one-half day and returned early afternoon. I gave Ethel $3.50 for gasolene so that she and Otis might visit her parents at Martinsburg. They left about the middle of the afternoon. Mother and sister came up early afternoon to pick flowers for the hotel and for a wedding tomorrow. I did some work on a budget. Wheat is flourishing but the continued cold wet weather is discouraging.

(Memo. Physical and living problems at Sunny Hill,brown folder.

9 June 1934.

"Fiscal and Living Problems
of the
Sunny Hillers.
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x x x

Total expenses.....$1,705.00

x x x

Total income.....$1,529.00

Average monthly income.....$127.00

Average monthly shortage..... 15.00

x x x

Considerations.

"Sunny Hill Farm has been an annual expense through all the years, and will probably continue to be. Without salary we cannot afford that expense. It has also been and still continues to be a constant care and source of worry, and will be even more so in future now that it cannot be kept in presentable condition. It is a luxury that only a well man and a wealthy man can afford. With increasing age, ill health, and failing eyesight, it is no longer a satisfaction but a weary burden. The farm is no place for old people to live in winter, and we are probably in for a series of bad winters when it may be impossible to get supplies for weeks at a time. This is a poor time to sell farm property, but if we were to give Sunny Hill away for nothing we would be much better off. We should be able to sell it for enough to buy a small cottage in town or city where living expenses should be less and there would be no farm expenses, cares, or worries.

"1026 17th Street, Washington, will always bring in some sort of an income. If we can get from it a net income of $400 (after paying taxes, insurance and repairs), this added to the retirement annuity would give us a net income of $100 clear a month for living

expenses, instead of less than half that amount now. We could live within that income, which we cannot do now.

"If we continue to run behind as we have done since my salary stopped, it is only a question of time when all our real estate will have to go at forced sale to satisfy the mortgages, and will be sold at great disadvantage and loss to us. We would then be reduced ø to the retirement annuity of $67.44 a month.

"What is the answer?

Sunday, 10 June; hot with showers. In the forenoon a young couple came up for some flowers for their wedding. In the afternoon the Biser family were up on a visit. About the same time Mr.and Mrs.Hedges and daughter of Walkersville came up and walked about the place He said they had been tenants on the same farm for 43 years and his father was tenant on the same place before him. Otis and Ethel returned from Martinsburg in the afternoon, both rather tired.

The day seemed rather long to me because I could get no sleep, could not read, and the radio could not be used because of static. Also I am going slow on smokes. Have been trying to switch from cigars to a pipe, something I had never been able to do in the past with any satisfaction.

Monday, 11 June; clear and hot. Lewis plowing the narcissus. I was feeling better than for several months. Cut some weeds and mowed on the lawns. Ethel said she saw a snake but I could not find it. Otis and Ethel have about decided that it will be cheaper to sell the big car that consumes so much gasolene and oil and rent a cheap room in Washington.

Tuesday, 12 June; cloudy and showers. Lewis plowing narcissus in the forenoon. Thelma drove out in the afternoon with the babies and took Ethel back with her. She said that Otis sold the big car to a junk dealer for ten dollars, and that was the end of a $7,000 car that was the pride of its owner many years before. Some people came after dusk for flowers.

Wednesday, 13 June; cloudy and cold. Sister came up in the afternoon to plant popcorn. I drove to town for groceries and bought a sickle with a long handle for mowing weeds. Had some nice liver and bacon for supper.

Thuesday, 14 June; clear and cold. I walked down to the lower place. The wheat was looking fine. Mrs.Sheets said her husband would

pay the May rent tomorrow. Had she not said this I would have placed the collection of the rent in the hands of a lawyer, but decided to give him another day. In the afternoon a Mr.and Mrs.Crawford came up. They were from Corpus Christi, Texas. They had bought a farm near Yellow Springs. It turned out that she was from Lamar County and was a sister of Dr.McQuiston whom I had known well before leaving the county.

Friday, 15 June; clear and warm. I cut some weeds. Took wife to town for supplies. Left an advertisement with the local paper and mailed one to the Washington Star for sale or exchange of Lower Sunny Hill. Received a check from the wholesaler in Washington for $122 for peonies.

Saturday, 16 June,clear and hot. Not feeling well and did not try to do much. Have neuralgia and rather nervous. Face badly blotched. Wife thinks it is because I continue to drink wine. I am sure it is due to neuritis because drinking wine never caused such an appearance before. Also have little or no appetite. Callouses form on my fingers without any apparent cause and at a certain stage they peel off like blisters. Feeling very tired and depressed.

Sunday, 17 June; clear and cool. Last evening had a neuralgic and nervous attack that troubled me greatly. However, I slept well and laid down most of the forenoon. In the afternoon typing a biographical sketch requested by the editor of the Country Review, London. Just before supper Marjory Keen, her husband, and several others drove out from Washington. They wandered about while we ate supper. We gave them some flowers and they left after 8 o'clock.

Monday, 18 June; raining all day and cool. Had an inquiry from Baltimore regarding the lower place. Answered it and wrote some more of the biographical sketch for Home and Country Review of London. Feeling better today.

~~(Andrews,18 June, brown folder)~~ omit

Tuesday, 19 June; fair and pleasant following rain last night. In the mail were several inquiries regarding the lower place. In the afternoon I drove to town for groceries. Stopped to see Mr.Grayson Mercer and asked him to try his hand at collecting the rent from the Sheets tenant. Stopped at Winworth and gave sister a check for $176, her half of the net proceeds from the peonies. She gave me a mess of peas and greens. I was feeling much better but a little tired.

Wednesday, 20 June; clear and warm. Slept late.Mr.Potts, a realestate agent of Frederick, came out and asked me to list Sunny Hill with him for sale or exchange. Lewis came up for the truck for hauling cinders for Winworth. Had a long distance call from the agent of our town house in Washington saying he had found a tenant who would lease it for five years if I would agree to pay for having water put on the top floor and other repairs estimated at $250. I agreed.

(Dun & Braddstreet, financial statement,brown folder.)

(Biographical data,Town & Country Review,London. "

20 June 1934.

Messrs.Dun & Bradstreet,Inc.,

Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

"The form inclosed does not fit my situation. I infer you have had a call regarding my financial situation and therefore note the following for your information:

Assets.

Real Estate:

Residence, 1026 17th St.N.W.,Washington,D.C. Assessed at about $24,000; rents $75.00 per month; agents, Shannon & Luchs, 1505 H St.N.W.,Washington,D.C.; trust, $3,600.00.

Two farms in Frederick Co.,Md., known as Upper Sunny Hill and Lower Sunny Hill, 124 acres, 4 dwellings, and other buildings and improvements, including several thousand dollars worth of flower stocks. Value uncertain, but cost me about $30,000. I operate both farms, live at upper place, and rent dwelling at lower place for $15 a month. Am offering lower place for $4,000 and upper place at $8,000. Only encumbrance is a loan of $1,000 on lower place by Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Frederick.

Personal Property:

Household goods, library, musical instruments, frigidaire, electric range, etc., farm tools, equipment and livestock, probably about $2,000.

All property covered by insurance.

Liabilities.

Taxes about $425.00.

Interest at 6% on $4,600 secured by real estate, and $600 secured by life insurance policy.

Insurance, about $65 annually (paid up for three years).

June 1934.

Biographical Data
re
Leon M. Estabrook,
for
Town and Country Review, London, S.E.1.

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x x x

The foregoing is a bare outline of his travels and experiences. It has been a liberal education.

Among the many impressions made by such extensive travel are that human races are essentially the same, much as members of the same family, and yet differ widely in customs, language, and psychology. Another is that there are men of culture and refinement in all countries, regardless of race, color, or environment. Another, that officials and educated business men in all countries were quite willing to cooperate in such an enterprise as an international census of agriculture. x x x

He is often asked how he got along with languages. Of course, he was at home wherever English is spoken. He had a good reading and speaking knowledge of French, Spanish, and Italian, and a smattering of German. In countries where none of these languages is commonly spoken he always found some one who could speak at least one of them. More often than not it was either English or French. Unquestionably English is gaining throughout the world, even though our French friends do not like to admit it.

x x x

Note: These first 20 pages of Mr. Estabrook restates and greatly abbreviates the story of his childhood and early manhood years, betray by the frequency of typing errors the ravages of disease under which he completed his monumental task. His eyesight had been seriously impaired; he suffered from cancer of the throat, and not ver much later died from it. Only by his indomitable power was he able to carry through to completion a document which, with all its prolixity, is intense human.

1934 draft

Sunny Hikk Farm, R.5,
Frederick, Md.,
June, 1934.

Biographical Data
re
Leon M. Estabrook,
for
Town and Country Review.

I was born, so I have been told, at Rockford, Illinois, on March 24, 1869, and I have no reason to doubt the statement of my parents. Date of birth is usually considered the beginning of one's existence and biography, but it isn't. At any rate I reckon my beginning from my first conscious realization of things other than myself, and this came at a very early age, consciousness of my mother's face, of a baby sister when I was two years old, of seeing the moon just out of my reach in the sky above, of a meadow full of violets and buttercups,, and a winding path that led through the waving grass upward to where the top of the hill and the sky seemed to meet, and I was filled with longing to follow that path and explore the other side of the hill. From that day to this my mind hs been open to beauty in all its forms, and this appreciation of beauty I have always considered the most prescious gift of the fairies, after which come curiosity, desire to know, and keen interest in all things. These faery gifts have made life extremely interesting to me, with never a dull moment.

Childhood ~~xxxxxx~~ to my eighth year was spent in Rockford, then a small manufacturing city. Among my vivid recollections of Rockford are starting to school, of winning praise for excellence in penmanship, of watching the process of making wagons and other farm machinery from raw materials to finished products in the factories, of several great fires and how the firemen fought the flames, of beautiful Rock River and of several camping out vacations on the banks of the river. That reminds me that as a child Rock River

was a shinning, rippling, swiftly flowing river somewhat vroader than the Mississippi at St. Louis. Years later I crossed it at Beloit, Wisconsin, but I looked in vain for a river. What I saw was a little creek that the conductor assured me was the river I was looking for. In spite of this disillusionment I still think of Rock River asone of the great rivers of the world.

Removal to Texas in 1877.

Although father was a skilld mechanic and earned high wages at piece work he saved nothing. Mother was dissatisfied and urged him to go west, become an independent farmer, and accumulate wealth. In the spring of 1877 he went to Paris in northeast Texas and hired out on a farm. At first his letters were encouraging and he wrote about Indians, cattle, and horned toads, and other subjects of fascinating interest to his eight year old son. But the work on the farm was new and strange to him, the hours were long, and the wages insignificant in comparison with what he had been earning. His letters indicated that he was on the point of giving up the Texas venture and returning to Rockford. Within a week mother had sold the household goods, packed up a few belongings, and she, my sister and I were on our way to join father in Texas. To me it was a wonderful trip. Upon reaching the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, I began to look for wild Indians and buffalo, but saw none. However, we did travel all day through a wild, unfenced country, without houses or towns, or farms, or roads. On the train were men in frontier and cowboy costumes, rifles at their side and revolvers in their belts, some of them with big hats and wearing their hair long, and several with whom I talked said there was plenty of Indians and buffalo and catamounts on the prairies and in the woods, but they kept out of sight.

Boyhood and Youth in Texas.

Our first summer and autumn were spent in a shanty on the prairie,

followed by six months in the town of Paris, where my sister and I went to school, and then a yeæ on a farm near town with a family also from Rockford. The nettyear father bought a small farm 22 miles west of Paris. Here hard work went for naught because of four years of continuous drouth. Next father bought another small farm within five miles of Paris and in five yeæs of rather excessive rainfall we worked off the mortgage.

For me it was a varied and wonderful experience. I began working regularly long hours daily in my ninth year. I did not like to work especially but I did like to learn how to work and to excell others in working. I not only learned how to do all things that had to be done on a farm but to care for live stock, ride horses, shoot, kill snakes, hunt, and to enjoy all forms of outdoor life. I became familiar with all the varied forms of plant, animal, and insect life, and made collections of flowering plants and insects. The northern familily with whom we lived the first year had a collection of books, including many fairy tales. I read all those fairy tales with wonder and delight, and thereafter unto this day the world has been peopled for me with fairies. Never shall I forget the trek of our little family across the prairie to the second farm we lived on, 22 miles, on a fair spring day under a blue sky and little white clouds flying overhead, the tall prairie grass waving in a gentle breeze, daisies and other wild flowers nodding at us aswe passed, meadow larks, quail, prairie chickens, and other birds, to say nothing of jack rabbits and cotton tails that sprang up at our approach, and the expectation of seeing our new domain. Our route lay across an open unfenced prairie, and for at least ten miles of the distance not a house or fence or human being was in sight. We arrived at our destination after dark and slept in a vacant shanty on the prairie that was infested with fleas. During the remainder of that first year on our own farm mother and us two children lived in a one room log cabin without window

or floow and all cooking was done in an open fire place and every drop of water was hauled from a creek ~~thatxx~~ back of the place that retained some water in shallow holes--this because the tenant on the place refused to give possession. I repeat, lifeon this farm and on the next farm ws extremely interesting in spite of the unremitting and unrequited manual labor.

During the thirteen years we lived on these farms I went to neighboring schools about three months in all. The fairy stories I have already mentioned fired my imagination. When I finshed reading them, I read a copy of the bible from cover to cover, some feat for a nine year old boy, and thereafter read every scrap of print that came my way, fiction, newspapers from beginning to end, advertisements and all. Unfortunately our supply of literature was small--the county paper and the St.Louis Globe Democrat. The difficulty of getting anything to read simply whetted my appetite. The hardships and privations of that early pioneer farm life led me to resolve at the ripe age of twelve years that I would get an education at all hazards, and the only way seemed to be to pick cotton for neighbors in the fall and with the proceeds buy text books and study them alone at night. That is exactly what I did for nine years, studying the lessons at night after a hard day:s work and reciting them aloud to myself the next day as I followed the plow or wielded the hoe. Also I committed to memory poems and other gems of literature, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, all of which I would recite lustily while at work alone in the fields. I was especially fond of history and of mathematics, this last because it was so beautiful, had such a necessary harmony, and every proposition could be proved. Arithmetic was child's play, and then came the delights of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, and higher mathematics, all without a teacher, of course. On our last farm, when about fifteen, a dentist friend in Paris took an interest

in the queer country boy who had a passion for reading and loaned him the discarded magazines of his office. These included Scribners, the Century, the Arena, the American Review, and others, all of which I read religiously. A brief cotton picking campaign each fall--I was an expert at this and could often earn as much as two dollars a day, gave me money with which to buy not only textbooks but an unabridged dictionary, a copy of Shakespeare, Ξ the works of Emerson, Carlysle, and Ruskin, yjr essays of Bacon and Locke, and other books that I devoured greedily. Looking back I can see that I coverd more ground and a wider range of subjects than most college courses, although I did not realize it at the time. All I knew was that this was a wonderful world in which we lived and that I was happy when studying or reading or working.

Then when I was nineteen came a turning point. The local paper announced a teacher's summer normal to last a week and to cost five dollars. The next day while stripping fodder from sorghum, barefooted and dripping with perspiration, I was pestered by the thought, "Why not try that summer normal and may be get a teacher's certificate and in that way escape from the farm." That noon I announcd to my surprised father that I was going to the summer normal. He at once raised the obvious objection that the family did not have five dollars for the entrance fee. I assured him, however, that he was to ride one of the horses to town that very afternoon, explain the situation to our dentist friend, who would advance the money upon my promise to repay him in the fall out of cotton picking money. And so it was, and so I went to that summer normal, a tanned, taciturn, diffident human being who had not been inside of brick walls since he was a child. I was absolutely crushed by the fact that the secretary of the summer normal was a very attractive and very self possessed young lady teacher and that practically all others registered for the

course were experienced school teachers and most of them were graduates of colleges and universities. I was a youth without experience or schooling. No wonder I wassilent and sweat blood. Then came the greatest triumph and surprise of my life. I left that summer normal with the conviction that I had failed, I must havefailed in the examinaton, although the questions seemed easy and I noted with contempt that many others were copying answers out of books concealed in the leaps. Two weeks alater it was announced in the county paper that Mr.Leon Estabrook has received the highest rating at the summer normal xxxxxxxxxx. xxxxxxxxx

which were fabulously remunerative in comparison with farm work, or even with teaching. I took xxphonoxx a written examination sent out by the Phonographic Institute at Cincinnati and was granted a teacher's certifie. Then I resigned from the "university" and opened a public stenographic and typewriting office. This brought me in contact with all the professional men in town, but the volume of business was barely sfficient to keep my office going. Incidentally while running this office I voluntarily ran a socalled city library, and went out and solicited funds to buy new books. Then came an offer from a local firm of lawyers who acted as agents for British corporations in loaning money on Tecas real estate, which I accepted, reserving the right to do sch court reporting as came my way. Here I learned how to make abstracts of land tieles, and the law of real estate and commercial paper.

While with this firm I hd several calls for court reporting. One of them was from a new York firm of lawyers to report a case in the Federal Court at Dallas. I responded. I could write a humorous description of this momentous event. For the first time in fourteen years I entered a railway coach, transferred from one train to another at Sherman, arrived at Dallas, a city in the evening, could not think of spending mo ey for street car fare, and so, with my night shirt and a few thing things tied up in a newspaper I walked from the railway station to the hotel in the middle of the street, inquiring my wy as I went. I must have been a whole show to the hotel managgement because of my complete ignorance of hotel routine. The next morning I showed up at the court house, made my presence known to the array of lawyers, and for forty-eight hours I reported the proceeding in court during the day and wrote dposirtions during the entire night, without a moment's rest or sleep. It was a sever yst of endurance. I sleept the entire distance on the joirney back to Paris. I transcribed my shorthand notes on a typewriter and sent in a bill for $135, which wg peomptly paid, and which was more than

than our entire family had earned___or received--in any one year of hard 16 hour a day labor for many years on the farm. I got the job of typewriting the manusxript of a book written by a local doctor who had visited the Holy Land. It was drudgery ov the worst kind, worse than hoing ing cotton, but at last it was finished.

Then I saw an announcement in the local paper of a civil service m competitive examination for stenographer at Dallas on a certain date. I wondered if I coud pass it. I applied and got an admission ticket. I went to Dallas and took the examination, not without manh qualms and misgivi ings. Time passed. I read about the founding of the Chicago University and wanted to take a course in electrical engineering in it. I corresponded with the dean and it was aggeed that I should gto Chicago for the desired course and pay my way with shorthand work. Then in March, 1893 came a tele gram from the War Department at Washinggton directing gme to report to report for duty without chay. So ended my life in Texas.

Service in the War Department.

How wonderful it seemed at the age of 24 to be coming to the Nation's capital fully alive to all its advantages and possibilities, and for the first time in my life with a feeling of independence, because up to that time I had always lived with my parents. Upon reporting for duty at the War Department I was assiged to a fivision in the old Ford's Theater Building on 10th Street. To my disgust I was seated at a pine table with two young negro clerks and set to copying military records with pen and ink. I protested so vigorously that within a few days I was sent to headquarters in the main building and soon became a favorite stenoggrapher of Col.Ainsworth's.

In the summer of that first year, 1893, I was assigned to work with the experts employed by a Joint Commission of Congress to Investigate Business Methods in the Executive Departments of the Federal Govern-

ment. These experts were big men; Mr. Reinhart, president of the Atcheson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Co.; Mr. Haskins, secretary of the Manhattan Trust Co.; and Mr. Sells, auditor for the Oregon Navigation and Railway Co. I was their stenographer and confidential secretary during the life of the commission. Their work brought them in contact with cabinet officials and heads of bureaus in all the departments, but more especially with the Treasury Department and the Interior Department, and resulted in a general reorganization of the accounting system of the government. One of our investigations took us to New York City where we spent several weeks looking into customs house methods.

The Joint Commission expired by law on June 30,1895, the experts went their several ways, and I returned to the War Department. Here during the next eight years I followed the official routine, was promoted,and assigned to the highest class of office work, that of abstracting records, sifting evidence, and preparing legal briefs of cases involving claims against the government. The routine character of the work gave me an opportunity to take advantage of the excellent night schools in Washington, a year at the Columbian Scientific School, now the George Washington University; the Berlitz School of Languages; and the Georgetown Law School. Also I was able to accumulate books and to read history and literature sy$ematically. In 1899 I married Nellie Catherine Jackson, from Kansas, and bought a residence on 17th Street. This was followed the next yex by the tragedy of the death of wife and child. Two years later I married Nellie Louise Melling of Washington, D.C.

Throughout my service in the War Department I was frequently irritated and profoundly dissatisfied with the treatment accorded by military officers to civilian employes. I followed the example of many other civil service employes by resigning in the fall of 1903.

In December of 1903 I opened a well equipped office in the Colorado Building for general shorthand reporting work as well as general stenographicwork. The venture ws quite successful, full of interest, and paid better than my War Department salary, but my wife could not become reconciled to my irregular hours and protested so persistently that I gave it up in May, 1904,to become a stenographer in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. During the short period my shorthand office was in existence I reported several local political conventions, the decision of the Supreme Court in the Northern Securities Case, besides much interesting work of a business nature, especially the putting in typewritten form of the iridescent dreams of promoters who swarmed in great numbers to Washington from all directions.

My first six months in the Department of Agriculture were spent in the office of Dr.Walter T. Swingle, of date palm and Smyrna fig fame. Then I became private secretary to Dr.B.T.Galloway, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Here began a happy period of service. I was interested in and loved all forms of plant life. My position brought me in friendly contact with a large corps of men whose lifes were devoted to the study of plant life and scientific research in connection therewith. By explaining to me their projects, what had been accomplished, the difficulties to be overcome, and what they hoped to accomplish, these men became my teachers; and this I supplemented by reading bulletins and watching closely the experimental work in the department greenhouses and at the Arlington Experimental Farm across the river.

Early in 1905 Dr.Galloway asked me to investigate and report on the accounting system in the bureau. while he went on a long trip to the Pacific Coast. This request was prompted by the fact that Congress had just enated a law making it a penitentiary offence for any government official to spend, or enter into any contract on behalf of the government that would require the spending, of more money than was authorized in

the appropriation act. I found that the Bureau of Plant Industry at that time had 24 divisions and offices and more than 30 separate appropriations that were assigned to the various offices, each of which kept some sort of accounts; but no two systems of accounting were alike, they were rarely kept up to date, they were in charge of inexperienced clerks, and it was extremely difficult if not impossible to ascertain the status of the bureau's finances at any given time. When Dr.Galloway returned I had a report ready with a recommendation that a central accounting office be established for the bureau to which all the accounting work of the divisions and offices should be transferred. With the report I submitted samples of the records to be kept and the periodical reports to be made. The report was approved and I was directed to proceed to organize the new office, to be known as the Office of Records, of which I became the first chief. That office is still in existence and the accounting system and records I devised for it were adopted by at least one other great bureau.

While in this office I had numerous confidential assignments from the chief of bureau. Among them was a quiet investigation of the methods and practices of grading grain. This took me to Chicago,Milwaukee, Duluth, and Minneapolis. My report influenced the bureau to favor the governmental supervision of grain grading and the establishment of uniform grades. Another assignment was an investigation of some cooperative experiments in tea growing at Summerville and near Charleston, S.C.

In 1909 I became chief of the Office of Seed Distribution that had charge of the purchase, storage, and packeting of millions of packages of seed for free distribution. This activity of the government was bitterly opposed by the seed trade and the object of many newspaper jibes. The department disapproved of the seed distribution

and for many yers tried to get rid of it, but year after year Congress continued to make mandatory provision for it. It was not finally discontinued until the spasm of economy following the great war. The best the department could do was to see that the appropriation was properly expended, the best seed obtainable purchased, and the distribution handled efficiently. Seed bids were of two kinds, one for supplying seed already in stock, and the other for seed to be grown during the current season. In order that I might thoroughly understand the seed business, correct abuses if any and defend the government distribution if necessary, I made it a practice to visit all the seed growing farms having contracts with the government, inspecting the growing fields and equipment of the growers, and watching the tests of the seed supplied in the Seed Laboratory and the plots at the Arlington Farm. These inspections took me to New England, New York, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska,South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma, Oregon, and California; and most interesting work it was.

My predecessor had established a governmental experiment farm for growing Dutch bulbs, narcissi, tulips, and hyacinths, near Bellingham, Washington, with the idea of growing bulbs for distribution, instead of buying them from abrod, and of establishing a new industry in this country. I was much interested and made two trips to Bellingham. On the second trip, in April, 1909, I received a telegram from Dr. Galloway, then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, asking me to return to the department andbecome its Chief Clerk "in order to bring about a business administration."

As chief clerk I had supervision of the buildings occupied by the department, about 40 in number, of the mechanical shops, the light and elevator service, mechanics, messengers, and laborers. I was chairman of the building committee and a member of many other committees,. Amonth these was a special committee to investigate

the Bureau of Statistics, of which Prof.Whitney, Chief of the Bureau of Soils, was chairman, Dr.John Lee Coulter and Dr. Thompson, economists, and myself were members. I acted as secretary and drew up the final report recommending a reorganization of the bureau. This was approved and a few days later Secretary Houston asked me to become chief of the bureau and make the recommendations of the committee effective.

I became chief of the Bureau of Statistics in September or October, 1913. On July 1, 1914, the title of the bureau was changed to Bureau of Crop Estimates, the estimating of crop production being its principal function. The principal feature of the reorganization was the establishment of a branch statistical office in each State in charge of a trained man. The bureau rendered valuable service during the war because of its facilities for collecting country wide information quickly. The organization and crop estimating work took me in the course of a few years to every State..During this period I was often called upon for addresses and for articles explaining the crop estimating system and service. I served on innumerable committees, and near the close of the war was designated to represent agriculture on the Council of National Defense.

In the fall of 1920 I was designated to represent the Department of Agriculture at the General Assembly meeting of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome and report upon economic conditions in several countries of western Europe. At the Rome meeting I was made chairman of the statistical section. I returned by way of France, Belgium, Holland, and England. This experience was tremendously interesting.

Friction had developed between the newly organized Office of Markets, which had more money than it could use effectively, and the Bureau of Crop Estimates, which was short of funds, all because of

duplicate authority and work in the field of crop production and market information. In 1920 Mr.Livingston, chief of the Office af Markets , and I discussed the feasibility of consolidating the two bureaus. We reached an agreement and the details were worked out by committees. Later the Office of Farm Management came into the merger. The proposed consolidation of bureaus to be known as the Bureau of Agricultural Economics was approved by Congress and became effective in 1921, with Dr. H. C. Taylor as chief and myself as asociate chief. It soon became one of the great bureaus of the department, and ample funds became available for the Division of Crop Estimates. In 1919 I had drawn up a consructive program for the expansion and improvement of the creop reporting service that has since been followed with good results.

In November of 1922 I was approached by the commercial attache of Argebtina at Washington. He said his ~~fox~~ government wanted an expert to reorganize its Bureau of Rural Economics and Statistics and that from all he could learn I was the one man best qualified for the job. I laughed at the proposal at first on the ground that I was over fifty years old, did not know a word of Spanish, was settled in my private and official life, and had no desire to break all home connections for servicein a foreign country. However, the opportunity for trying my hand at improving the statistical service of a foreign country did appeals to me. My reluctance seemed to stimulate his interest. He said I could name my own salary. On the spur of the moment I named a very high salary, so high that I thought it would end all discussion. He said he would agree to my terms subject to cable confirmation by his government. The confirmation came a day or two later and I was committed to go to Argentina. Naturally I had many things to do for such a complete change in life and work. In December the Department gave me a dinner ovation at the old Ebbitt Hotel, which was a most unusual demonstration of friendship and good will from several hundred fellow employes and associates

The Argentine government generously agreed to pay the traveling expenses of myself and family down and back. The family included a pet dog that my wife would not consent to leave behind, and our two adopted children, Thelma 12, and Otis 10. We left Washington January 2,1923, spent the night in New York, and boarded the steamer the next day. We had a pleasant voyage and spent a week at Rio Janeiro sightseeing and viewing the exposition.

After getting settled in a hotel at Buenos Aires I called at the Ministry of Agriculture and was assigned an office. Thenceforward I lived a strenuous life studying Argentine laws, history, literature, governmental organization, and Argentine agriculture. This last took me to all parts of the country. Within six months I could speak the language, and within a year was recognized as an authority on Argentine agriculture. My work for the government was successful and met with much commendation public and private. There ws also the presentation of a gold medal and a certificate by the Minister of Agriculture, and several banquets in my honor when, at my request, the contract was terminated at the end of July, 1924.

I was then given the title of agricultural commissioner by the U.S.Department of Agriculture and proceeded to make an economic agricultural survey of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil, visiting those countries in September.

In October at Buenos Ayres I attended as U.S.Delegate an Internath al Economic Conference and an International Geographic Congress. Also as guest of the Minister of Agriculture I accompanied him in a private railway coash on a tour of inspection of the dairy region in the Province of Santa Fe. Dr. DeVuyst, minister of agriculture of Belgium, was the only other guest.

We left Buenos Ayres early in November, crossed the Andes, stopped for a few days at Santiago and Valparaiso, and after an interesting

voyage reached New York on December 4, and the following day were home in Washington.

I met with a friendly reception at the department and in my old bureau. There I was told of a cooperative project of the International Institute of Agriculture, the International Education Board, and the U.S.Department of Agriculture, to bring about the taking of an agricultural census of the world in 1930, and that I had been unanimously selected for the post of director of the project. The object of the census, of course, was to secure comparable and reasonable complete dats for the farms, crops, and livestock of the world. The project appealed to me strongly, but I hesitated because a financial sarifice and a separation from family, home, friends, and business interests. My associates in the department urged me to accept, which I finally did, not without misgivings.

I reached Rome early in May, 1925, organized a small office at the International Institute of Agriculture, and proceeded to study the census situation of the world. I found that of the 200 contries listed by the Institute less than 50 had ever taken an agricultural census, some of these were a quarter of a century old, few of them were taken in the same year or by the same methods, and there was great lack of completeness and comparability. Then I drew up a list of questions that might be asked and a set of proposed definitions, instructions, and a model questionnaire form. The greatest difficulty was in deciding what should be included and what excluded from a census on an international scale. Early in 1926 this material was reviewed and discussed by two international committees of statisticians assembled at Rome, a report embodying the questionnaire form approved by these committees was adopted by the General Assembly of the Institute that met in April, and printed copies were mailed to all governments in June.

Early in June I left Rome to visit the capitals of all

countries, meet the responsible officials, explain the census project to them, and endeavor to win their good will and cooperation. On arrival at a capital I would first refresh my mind by looking up its census history and statistical organization, and the principal facts regarding the country's geography, agricultural production, commerce, and population. Then I would call upon the American consul and the commercial attache to explain the project to them and get from them the latest information concerning the economic situation of the country. From them also I would get the names of the minister of agriculture, the director of the bureau of statistics, and of other important officials, and some information regarding them, such as whether they spoke English or French, what their profession was before appointment to their present positions, and the like. Usually the consul was good enough to arrange by telephone for appointments with these officials. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Often these officials would appoint a committee of experts to consider with me the census proposal in detail. As it turned out, I never failed to get an expression of approval and promise of cooperation. I would then telegraph the fact of approval to the Institute which would be announced in Monthly Bulletin. For each country I would later submit a detailed written report setting forth the results of my interviews and observations. I never failed to ask the officials about the organization of their departments, their projects, their principal problems, what changes and improvements had taken place in agriculture in recent years, and to visit their botanical gardens, experiment stations. In this way I obtained a vast amount of information concerning the agriculture and organization of each country. Incidentally I tried to visit every art gallery and museum in the cities visited.

During the remainder of 1926 my itinerary took me to the capitals of all countries in Europe, except Albania.

In January, 1927, I visited Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. I returned to Egypt to represent the International Institute of Agriculture as an observer at an International Cotton Conference. After a short stop at headquarters in Rome I came to Washington to discuss the census project with our own officials. In April I went to Ottawa and met the Canadian officials. In May I attended a World Wheat Control Conference at Kansas City, as observer for the Institute. Then to Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, Hayti, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, and thence through the Panama Canal, to San Francisco, for passage to Honolulu and Japan. From Tokio I went to Pekin, Hongkomg, Formosa, French Indo China, the Philippines, Borneo, Australia, and New Zealand.

The beginning of 1928 found me approaching the Celebes Islands, and thence to Java, Singapore, the Malay States, Siam, Burma, India, and Arabia. At Aden I was laid up for a month with typhoid fever. When able to travel I went to French Samoliland, Abyssinia, Zanzibar, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, and across to Brazil,/EUruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and then back to Washington and Rome in time for the General Assembly meeting of that year. I returned to Washington in December and spent Christmas with my family.

In January, 1929, I went to Guatemala, the other Central American countries, and then Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Trinidad, and British Guiana, and thence back to Washington and on to Rome.

I had visited all principal countries of the world except Bolivia and Persia, whose officials I had met outside, and Afghanistan. which was in a state of war and had closed her boundaries temporarily. The colonies and small dependent islands that I did not have time to visit were to be taken care of by their main governments, for which I had arranged with the colonial offices of Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain, and Portugal. At Rome I wrote final reports,

attended as a delegate of the Institute a Diplomatic Conference on Economic Statistics at Geneva, and delivered an address in Spanish at the International Exposition at Barcelona. My work in connection with the World Census of Agriculture was highly commended at the Institute. I left in time to reach Washington in December.

In January, 1930, I was appointed assistant to the Director of Scientific Work in the U.S.Department of Agriculture for one year, and was assigned to the work of organizing the first Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, of which I was elected secretary general, and which was at the time considered a great success. The conference was held in September, but the preparation of an extensive report in three languages kept me fully occupied until the close of the year.

During my long absence all the higher positions in the Department were filled and there was no vacancy to which I could be transferredd At the beginning of 1931, therefore, I went on leave of absence without pay, and in May was retired. I moved with my family to my mountain retreat, Sunny Hill Farm, ner Frederick, Md., where I grow flowers, write, and occasionally give lectures, and watch the world go by. It is a beautiful spot and I never lack food for thought. Apparently my public career is definitely ended, but I am accumulating manuscript at a great rate, some of which may sometime be published.

P.S.--

Languages. With a good command of English, French, and Spanish, and a smattering of Portuguese and German, I had little difficulty in conversing with officials or reading official reports, especially those relating to agriculture, statistics, or economics.

Cooperation. One of the deepest impressions I got from my travels and intercourse with officials in foreign countries was the courteous willingness of all educated gentlemen to cooperate in the census project. I especially remember the very efficient cooperation of Sir Daniel Hall and Mr. Thompson on behalf of the British government.

Thursday, 21 June; clear and warm. Lewis plowing in the orchard. I cut some weeds and got the mail. Had four letters regarding the lower place and one telephone called from Baltimore. Replied to the letters. In the evening two young people called to look around and did not leave until after 8 p.m.

Friday, 22 June; hot. Went to town for laundry and supplies. Before breakfast I shot a groundhog in the orchard with the Winchester. Sandy had the animal up an apple tree. Climbing roses and Japanese iris about their best. Am feeling decidedly better and beginning to see a little better. Am drinking wine same as usual and smoking in moderation.

Saturday, 23 June; clear and hot. Had breakfast at 10 a.m. As we were sitting down Mrs.Germain and girl child, and Mrs.Germain's mother, came. They were tenants in mother's upper house. They did not leave until noon and then very reluctantly. The mother said she was on a visit from Tennessee and that she was a landscape gardenerspecialixing on rock gardens. I have never had any particular admiration for artificial rock gardens. She went into extacies over the rocks and opportunities for rock gardens at Sunny Hill. She utterly forgot herself and proceeded to tell me how to entirely remodel Sunny Hill and all its plantings in a way that would have ruined it for me and cost many thousands of dollars. In doing so she displayed her profound ignorance of botany, the nature of soils and plants, and artistic arrangement. I was thoroughly tired of her. She was also an enthusiast over antiques. After noon I walked down to the lower place. The wheat was looking fine and ripening. Saw Mrs.Sheets who said her husband would be up to pay his rent for preceding month early next week. Wife and I cleaned the large room in the Whippoorwill. Started to take a nap when Otis and Ethel, Mr.Price and Thelma and the two babies came.

Sunday, 24 June; hot and hazy. The young people stayed all night and until 5 p.m. today. Had four sets of visitors, three of them from Baltimore, out to see the lower place. They all seemed impressed but I had my doubts of their buying. The place looked very attractive with green lawn, fresh foliage in the orchard and woods, and a fine crop of ripening wheat. After showing these people about the upper place where they first called I made four separate trips to the lower place. It was steamy hot and still and I was very tired.

Monday, 25 June; clear and hot. I drove to town with the truck and brought out ten bushels of soybeans. Saw Dr.Hedges who said I was improving steadily. Received first check for rent of the Washington house under the new five-year lease. Received three inquiries regarding the low place and wrote replies. Cut some weeds. It was very hot.

Tuesday, 26 June; clear and hot. Took wife to town and we signed an extension of our note on the lower place. Did some shopping and had luncheon at Snyder's. Lewis and a helper at work in the gardens and cut some branches overhanging the drive. Two parties were out from Baltimore to look at the lower place. The last came at sundown as we were finishing supper. It was dark when they left. The man was city bred and had an idea he could make money raising corn and hogs and potatoes.

Wednesday, 27 June; clear and hot. Took wife to the lower place to see a harvesting machine in the wheat field. She had never seen one. Of course, the machine was working at the far end of the farm and we had a long hot walk. I wrote some letters and checks and then cut some weeds.

Thursday, 28 June; very hot. Went to the lower place and found the harvesters nearly through. At Winworth found mother and sister

well. This afternoon resumed transcribing shorthand notes for first time since April 19. I still have to use a magnifying glass to read the notes but can operate the typewriter fairly well. I felt much encouraged. Cut some weeds that were flourishing in the peony field.

Friday, 29 June; clear and very hot. Went to town for supplies. Saw the realestate agent, Mr.Mercer, and authorized him to proceed to make tenants on lower place vacate for nonpayment of rent. At noon soon after I returned Mrs.Sheets came up hurriedly and paid for two months back rent. She wanted me to have the large room repapered. I told her "Yes," provided they paid their rent for July in the first week of July. After she left I called up Mr.Mercer to tell him he could hold the notice to vacate because the rent had just been paid. He said he and a friend had delivered the notice in person less than a hour previously.

I painted two porch chairs while the perspiration dripped off my face. Too hot to work or sleep. Picked some raspberries after the shadows fell across the patch. Could do no writing today because of the heat.

Saturday, 30 June; absurdly hot until showers came at 4 p.m. Had one of the Sheets boys up to help clean out the Whippoorwill. Dumped an accumulation of magazines and bulletins at which wife protested. At request of Leslie Masser, who was harvesting the wheat on shares, I went to the lower place and found that he was much interested in knowing whether he would participate in the fire insurance I was carrying on the barn. Also he wanted to use our truck in hauling the wheat to market. I said "Yes" to both questions. I helped do some cleaning and a little typewriting. A shower at 4 p.m.brought some relief from the heat wave. It was 105 degrees in Frederick and Baltimore yesterday and very trying.

Sunday, 1 July; cloudy and hot. The heat was still oppressive and everybody and everything looked limp. I visited the folks at Winworth at noon and found them eating dinner and all well. Tried to do some typewriting but it was slow work with poor eyes and extreme heat. A lady and some children were out in the morning for flowers for the church.

Monday, 2 July; clear and hot. Had Lewis cultivating the narcissus preparatory to sowing soybeans, and a boy cutting weeds in the peony field. Took wife to town for some shopping. Afterwards I cut some weeds. Arthur Masser came in the evening and said he would like to buy lower Sunny Hill, but he had no money for either a down payment or for necessary equipment.

Tuesday, 3 July; clear and hot. Lewis and helper sowing soybeans in the narcissus field. Had a Sheets boy cutting weeds. I picked some berries and mowed some lawn. Also wrote a letter in reply to an inquiry about the lower place. Otis and Ethel, Walker and Becky, and their baby, came in the afternoon.

Wednesday, 4 July; hot. The young folks and babies spent the night with us and all day. Leslie and his helpers harvested the wheat at the upper place in the forenoon. Otis and Walker went to town for a supply of ice cream which we had in the afternoon. Mother and sister came up to participate. Mrs.Ross brought out a gentleman from Pittsburg to picnic in the evening. Wife and I watched the fireworks in Frederick which were very pretty, as well as the lights of the procession of automobiles from Frederick to Braddock Heights.

Thursday, 5 July; fair and hot. I took the truck to town for service so that it would be in good condition for hauling the wheat and had to wait and hour and a half. Brought out some feed for the team. In the afternoon I took a nap, cut some grass, and did some writing.

Friday, 6 July; clear and hot. Lewis and helper finished sowing soybeans in one of the peony fields and cleaned out the vegetable garden. The ground becoming very dry and hard. I drove to town for laundry and supplies. Left and order to renew insurance on barn contents.

Had a long distance telephone call from Dr.Mordecai Ezekiel, economic adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture, asking if I could go on short notice to Argentina in ~~a~~ company with one other representative of the department to study the wheat situation. I said such a mission would be very agreeable to me. He said he would see Secretary Wallace and communicate with me further about it. He said the plan was to leave Sunday after next for a conference with leaders of the grain trade at Minneapolis and thence to Montreal or New York to sail directly to Buenos Aires..

This proposal came as an agreeable surprise for several reasons I had felt that because of my long experience in agriculture and extensive travel I was especially well qualified, particularly in comparison with other men in the department, or outside the department for that matter, and yet I had been completely ignored since my return to the United States. I realized that in the background of my mind had been the thought that I would sooner or later be recalled into service. I had felt that my time at Sunny Hill had been wasted except for such writing ~~that~~ as I had been able to do and that the neuritis from which I had suffered was traceable to a feeling of futility. This prospect of recall not only removed all that lurking feeling but probably a long sea voyage would put the finishing touches upon my cure. Possibly, also it might lead to further employment after the special mission was completed. Salary also was a consideration.

Saturday, 7 July; clear and hot with thunder storm at dusk. A Mr.Kemperling of Washington ~~ill~~ called just as I was writing a

letter in reply to one from him regarding the sale or exchange of lower Sunny Hill. It appeared that he was not interested in the ~~lowr~~ lower place but was attracted by the upper place. He offered in exchange a sixteen room house on Rhode Island Avenue and Iowa Circle provided I ~~was~~ would assume a mortgage of $19,000. He said that he had been offerred $40,000 for the house provided he would guarantee that ~~the house~~ it would come within the commercial zone within five years. He left at 4 p.m. The Sheets boy came up to report that he had broken the long handled sickle that he had been using to cut weeds in the peonies at the lower place.

Sunday, 8 July; cloudy and cooler. Everything wet and fresh looking. At noon I visited mother and sister at Winworth and found them both well. Sister asked for the truck next Thursday to haul Mrs.Nevin Biser's trunks to the railway station. She was to leave her husband and return to her family in North Carolina with the five children. Did a little writing in the afternoon. A little unsettled because of the possibility of going to Argentina.

Monday, 9 July;partly cloudy and pleasant. Up early and drove with wife to Washington, she to visit some friends and I to visit the Department of Agriculture. At the office of Dr.Ezekiel I learned that he was out of town and that a letter had been written to me outlining plans. Miss Wiley, his secretary, said /illegible/ my appointment had been requested the salary to be paid from the appropriation of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. I called at the Appointment Office and ascertained that inasmuch as I had been retired on account of reduction of force and not for age I was eligible for reinstatement. I called on Dr.Woods who was very cordial. He went with me to see Dr.Galloway, who also seemed greatly pleased to see me. He did not look very strong, and both he and Dr.Woods seemed to be greatly discouraged at the attitude of the administration to-

ward biological research. I could not help but wonder at this because Dr.Galloway and Dr.Woods were recognized leaders not only in all matters of scientific research but also men of demonstrated ability and success as administrators and educators and yet here they were pigeonholed ~~imx~~ each in a little room in the interior of a collosal new office building with little or nothing to do, drawing reduced salaries, and never consulted. In lieu of such tried and proven leaders the new administration was loading up with a lot of inexperienced idealistic professors and economists, which could mean only misdirected effort, inevitable failures and mistakes, and confusion and waste of public money.

I met Prof.Corbett in another room. He did not look particularly happy, but much older and thinner. Dr.Woods went with me to the office of ~~M~~ Dr.Waite. He looked distinctly unhappy, and no wonder. His office and laboratory equipment had just been moved into new quarters and was stacked up in great piles on the floors. He himself was sitting at a desk in one corner contemplating the chaos. He said his ~~mx~~ materials had lain in that condition for weeks pending the settlement of a controversy between two labor unions as to which ~~set~~ groups of workmen should set up or take down some movable partitions which were made of some sort of fireproof composition on metal frames. Because of the presence of these metal frames the metal workers union contended that they should have the exclusive privilege of handling these partitions; and because of the presence of plaster composition in the sections the plasterers union contended that it was their game; and because there was wood fiber or celulose in the composition the carpenters thought it was their prerogative; and until they settled their dispute the work of a large and important scientific government laboratory was held at a standstill. It seemed to me that here was a case where the

government would have been more than justified in penalizing the unions by assessing against them the loss due to their unnecessary interruption of government work.

Had luncheon at Child's on New York Avenue. Read some magazines at the Cosmos Club. Saw the real estate agents and learned that the repairs to our town house would cost something over $400 instead of the $250 they had first estimated. They said that probably half of this amount could stand for awhile.

Met wife at the garage at 3.p.m. and after stopping in Frederick for supplies and at Winworth to tell mother and sister of what I had learned, we reached Sunny Hill at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 10 July; clear and pleasant. I did some cleaning up about the place. Telephoned the paper hanger to come out and measure the kitchen. Spent the rest of the day listing the things that would be needed for the prospective Argentine trip. Wife and I walked to the top of Observatory Hill. The newly sown lawn grass was coming nicely.

Wednesday, 11 July; clear and cool. I went to town early and saw Dr.Hedges who gave me some more medicine. Saw Mr.Mercer and paid him for his services in collecting the rent for the lower place.

Had a telegram from Mrs.Wiley, secretary to Dr.Ezekiel, saying that Mr.Murphy was unable to got to Argentina with me. I had never heard of Mr.Murphy but was told that he was a newspaper man at Minneapolis who was much interested in the wheat situation and it had been planned to have him come to Washington this week for a conference and then proceed with me to the Argentine. Later Mrs.Wiley called up by telephone, saying that an effort would be made to find another suitable man in which event they would want me to accompany him. She asked what salary I would expect. I said that was a matter for the Department to determine, but if it was a reinstatement I saw

no reason why it should not be the same as my last salary of $5,600. She reminded me that salaries were subjest to a deduction of five percent and that the travel allowance probably would not covr er é actual expenses.

Thursday, 12 July; clear and warm. Took wife, mother and sister to Washington. I had signed the five-year lease to the town house and left it with the real estate agents.

At the Department of Agriculture I saw Dr.Ezekiel for only a few minutes and he said that nothing definite could be decided about the Argentine trip until the return of Secretary Wallace. He said that the question under consideration was the extent to which the various countries had lived up to the London agreement of last year to make a flat reduction of fifteen percent in the acreage and production of wheat in order that the tremendous surplueses that had accumulated in the exporting countries could be reduced to somethingl like normal carryovers. It was thought that Argentina had not lived up to this agreement. He thought that probably nothing could be done about this year's crop in the Argentine but it ~~was thought~~ seemed desirable to try to induce the authorities to agree to a reduction in the sowings for next year. He referred me to Mr.Thies (pronounced Tiße), marketing specialist, and to Mr.Ferrall, in charge of acreage reductions, in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Mr.Theis described the system of marketing agreed upon for the three Northwestern States of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, which combined had accumulated a surplus of about 26,000,000 bushels of soft wheat and where the price was on a world parity basis that was far below the Chicago price. The plan was, essentially, the formation of an association of millers and grain men to sell the wheat for what it would bring on the world market and for the government to reimburse the association for the difference between the price

it received and the domestic price. He said that since October of 1933 of a total surplus of 27 million bushels 26 million had been disposed of in this way and the owners of the wheat had received their bonus. Mr.Theis was a man of medium size, apparently in his forties, had been in the grain exporting business all his life, and his father before him, and made a very clear statement of the situation. He looked rather fatigued from overwork.

Mr.Ferral was an old employe of the Extension Service. He described the efforts that had been made in this country to secure a reduction in wheat acreage, which was to pay farmers for an estimated reduction of fifteen per cent. He had his secretary fix up a large bundle of of documentary material for me to take along.

Mr.Ferral and I went to the restaurant in the same building and stood in line quite awhile before we could get a table. Mr. Warburton, Director of Extension, came and sat with us. He seemed to be quite familiar with the proposal to send me to the Argentine. We were joined by.Mr.Wheeler, Chief of the Foreign Section, who also seemd to be familiar with the proposed mission to Argentina. He took me to his office and said if I would bring in my passport he would have it put through for me.

I took a taxi back to the garage, met wife, mother and sister, and started for home at 3 p.m. At Frederick we stopped to have ice cream together. Home at 5 p.m. rather tired.

The plan outlined by Dr.Ezekiel today was that he, Mr.Wheeler, and I would leave Washington next Sunday, reach Minneapolis Tuesday morning, have a conference regarding the Argentine trip, leave Wednesday night, and I to leave Chicago Thursday directly for New York, arriving Friday, and sailing Saturday. This would leave me but little time for preparation.

Friday, 13 July, clear and hot. We were up early and with wife I drove to Washington. From the Cosmos Club I called up Mrs. Wiley who said that Dr.Ezekiel was out of the city and that Secretary Wallace had not yet acted upon the papers in my case. I went to the department and called on Mr.Wheeler. He did some telephoning in an effort to ascertain the status of my appointment. Then he took me to the photographers for some passport/ pictures. Then to a Mr. Hart, an administrative assistant in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, who did a lot of telephoning without result. He had already telephoned to the Munson Line in New York for a reservation on the American Legion.

I then went to the office of Miss Ellerbrock who had asked me to call for an interview to go in the Bureau News, but she was out at the time. While there I saw Mr.Marquis, and others. It seemed good to meet so many people I knew and who seemed glad to see me. Also I found that I could walk about on smooth floors and pavements with less fatigue than at the farm.

Next I stopped in the Crop Estimates Division. Mr.Callander was out but I saw Dr.Jones, Mr.Becker, and other old friends.

I walked down 14th street to the Avenue for some change and then to Child's for luncheon. I went into a trunk store for a key to my wardrobe trunk that had disappeared but was told that such keys were of the Yale variety and to duplicate one it would be necessary to have the number of the lock and send to the factory for it. Then to a ten cent store for some tags for my suitcases.

I returned to the Department at 1.30 p.m. Mrs.Wiley said the Secretary had decided to send me to Argentina alone and she promised to fix up smme stationery for me. I got the passport/ photographs and saw Mr.Hart again. He promis/ed to have the authorization, appointment, and transportation requests ready for me tomorrow.

I took a taxi to the State Department and saw a Mr.Hibbs who filled out an application blank for me to sign. A special passport was prepared very quickly. I inquired about two former passportes and was shown papers that I had signed indicating that the cancelled passportes had been turned over to me. They should, therefore, be somewhere in my files.

I took another taxi to the Argentine Embassy and had a very pleasant interview with the Ambassador, Sr. Espil, who personally took my passport in to the office of the vice-consul for visee. He seemed greatly pleased to know that I was going to Buenos Aires. He said the present Minister of Agriculture was for many years president of the Agricultural and Livestock Association of Argentina. He said also that the Minister was opposed to the wheat agreement, although his principal adviser, Sr.Brebia, was in favor of it because he sat in the London Conference.

I found wife at Stoneleight Court with Mrs.Trego. She had purchased some groceries and some shirts for me. At Frederick I found both the passenger and the freight offices closed for the day. About that time a severe hail and rain storm came up that continued until we reached Winworth where I stopped just long enough to tell mother and sister that everything appeared to be settled that I would go to Argentina.

Saturday, 14 July; clear and hot. Took wife to town to get the laundry and go to the bank. There I had my account made a joint account, renewed note for $1,000, drew out $600 for expenses of trip, and then drove to Washington.

At the department I spent two hours or more fixing up papers relating to my appointment and coming trip. Mr.Hart had made the steamer reservation and had the railway ticket which he gave me. Everything seemed to be finished and nothing more to do but pack

up and go when I received a telephone message from Mr.Gladmon, the Appointment Officer of the Department and an old friend of mine, asking me to come over to his office. There he asked if I understood that if I accepted the appointment that had just been issued I would forfeit not only the retirement annuity I was receiving for the period of my new service, three months, but also for all future time. He said that this was because of certain new laws and Comptroller's decisions. I said at once that I could not afford to accept an appointment under those conditions. He said he did not blame me and that was why he had called me over at the last minute to be sure that I understood the consequences of accepting the appointment and entering on duty under it. I asked if there was anything the Secretary of Agriculture could do about it in the way of making an exception or waiver and Mr.Gladmon said it was a matter of law beyond the control of the Secretary. I then said definitely that I would not accept the appointment.

It was then nearly 2 p.m. and all public offices were closed. I went to Dr.Ezekiel's office and informed Mrs.Wiley that I was sorry that I would have to give up the proposed trip to Minneapolis and Argentina because of what Mr.Gladmon had just told me, but that I would be glad to go if some way could be found to appoint me that did not involve a forfeiture of my retirements rights. She was greatly distressed but said she would communicate with Dr.Ezekiel and Mr. Gladmon and perhaps something could be worked out and if so she would telephone me.

We brought Otis and Ethel out with us. Naturally I was much disappointed at the sudden turn in the Argentine project and felt very tired after my strenuous activity for several days in connection with it.

At 5.30 p.m. Mrs.Wiley called up on long distance telephone to ask if I was willing to go to Minneapolis without salary for a few days while a way was being found to overcome the technicalities involved in my appointment without forfeiture of retirements rights. Inasmuch as I already had transportation to Minneapolis and would be out only cost of meals and lodging I readily agreed.

After supper I visited mother and sister at Winworth to say good bye to them and returned to pack up. Because I had no key to the wardrobe trunk I had to use instead several suitcases which with the portable typewriter, the bundle of A.A.A. literature I had been asked to take with me, and an umbrella and cane, made six or eight pieces. Inasmuch as I was leaving in the hottest of July weather and would pass through the tropics and arrive at Buenos Aires in midwinter it was necessary to take a complete outfit of summer and winter clothing.

Sunday, 15 July; clear and very hot. We were up early. I spent the forenoon packing and writing letters. Had a telegram that was read to me over the telephone from Mrs.Kernan (Regina dei cuore) from some place in Pennsylvania saying she would be in Frederick today and at the Francis Scott Key Hotel. I could not answer the telegram because she had left the place from which it came. I called up the hotel and asked the clerk to notify me of her arrival. We had a nice chicken dinner.

At 2 p.m. I left with baggage, wife, Otis, and Ethel, in the sedan. Stopped at Winworth a moment to say a last good bye. Stopped in Frederick at the hotel. The clerk said that Mrs.Kernan had just registered. I telephoned up and recognized her voice. She said she could not see me just then because she was taking a bath. I said that was a tragedy because I was on my way to catch a train in Washington and could wait only a few minutes. She4 asked me to wait while she

threw on some clothes. Wife and I waited in the reception parlor. In about ten minutes Mrs.Kernan came to us. She was looking very ~~thi~~ thin and peaked and said she was on her way to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington where she expected to stay only a short time and then rejoin her husband at Jacksonville. She said that her daughter had never recovered from the effects of childbirth and had lost the sight of one eye; that her son-in-law gave up his professorship at Columbia University for an advertising job that paid much better but had petered out during the depression, and the young couple had bought a small farm on Long Island and were having a hard time of it. She insisted on our bringing Otis and Ethel in and having something to drink. We did so and they came rather reluctantly. Then we went into the hotel restaurant and it was decided that we should all have a glass of cold lemonade. The waitress was a long time fetching it and when it came it was so intensely acid that we could scarcely drink it. I felt very sorry that we could not take her out to Sunny Hill and have her visit us for a few days and talk over the pleasant days we had spent together in Rome and of our experiences since, but time was pressing and I had to leave.

Otis drove the car to WashWashington. It was excessively hot and many cars were on the road. We stoppd at the apartment of Mr. Price and Thelma to say good bye. They and the babies were asleep and looked rather tousled when awakened. Otis then drove us to the Union Station where I checked the larger pieces through to Minneapolis. Then ascertained that my train would leave at 11.40 p.m. instead of 6.30 as noted on the envelope containing the railway ticket that had been given to me at the office. Then I checked the remaining hand baggage. By this time Walker Chapman had joined us. I suggested something to drink. We walked two or three blocks trying to find a cheap place and then returned to the station restau-

rant. I ordered ice cream for wife and a bottle of beer for each of the others. I bid good bye to the family at 6.30 p.m.and for the first time was free to sit down, rest and smoke and collect my wits.

After resting I walked across to a hotel restaurant on the plaza and had a steak dinner and smoke. Back to the station for a further rest and smoke and then a final bottle of beer. Fixed up the Pullman ticket and went on board at 10.30.p.m. The Pullman was air-conditioned and the change from the oppressively hot atmosphere outside was delightful. This was real luxury. I went back to the smoking car and read over the agreement with the Pacific Northwest Association providing for the marketing of their surplus wheat. Retired soon afterwards.

(Gilson, V.P.of bank,13 July, brown folder)
(~~Mrs.Wiley, 15 July, brown folder)~~ omit
(~~Shannon & Luchs, sme.~~

13 July 1934.

"Mr. E. Albert Gilson,
Vice-President,
Farmers & Mechanics Bank,
Frederick, Md.

"Dear Mr. Gilson:

"I was today appointed Consulting Specialist in the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington and instructed to proceed to Minneapolis for a conference, and thence to New York and Buenos Aires, leaving Sunday, the 15th, and returning probably in about three months.

"For your information and reference I am outlining my plans for this period of absence as follows:

"(1) I shall draw out about $600 for my travel expenses, which later will be reimbursed by the Government. Also a check in payment of repairs on my Washington house. This will leave a small balance for family expenses here.

"(2) I have signed orders at the Department of Agriculture to send my salary checks, 15th and last of month, to the Farmers & Mechanics National Bank of Frederick for deposit to credit of my account. These deposits, with wheat money at an early date, will build up my balance.

"(3) Make my account a joint account with myself and wife, (Mrs.) Nellie M. Estabrook, so that she can check against the account for necessary expenses during my absence.

"(4) Both wife and I sign a renewal of extension of the loan to us of $1,000 due next September, to provide for the possibility that I might be detained in Argentina a few weeks longer than expected.

"(5) Living expenses in Buenos Aires are, or were, very high, and our dollars are now worth little more than fifty cents outside the U.S. In case the funds I am taking with me should prove insufficient I shall have to cable you to cable the amount I may need. If so,

I would probably word my message to you about as follows: 'Cable New York City Bank' (or Boston City Bank, or American Express Company) 'order pay me one hundred dollars.' I presume you will know or can find out just how to do this. Expense of cabling will, of course, be charged to my account.

"(6) The procedure outlined in No.5 was followed by me for many years through a Washington bank and through the American Express Company at Rome. Only once was there any question raised at the U.S.Treasury which returned one of the salary checks to the bank for some technicality that I have forgotten. That was many years ago and was probably a blunder of some clerk and is not likely to happen again. If by any chance, however remote, this should happen again please advance money, or honor my wife's checks, and hold these U.S.Treasury checks as your security. Under the law they will have to be paid upon my personal endorsement or that of the administrator of my estate.

Probably some of the foregoing is wholly superfluous, but I want to make clear to you and other officials of the bank my situation and the provision I am trying to make for every contingency that may arise during my unavoidable absence.

My address for the next two months at least will probably be 'C/o Agricultural Attache, U.S.Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina.' About three weeks will be required for a letter to reach me.

Very truly yours,

Leon M. Estabrook.

Monday, 16 July, en route Minneapolis; clear and pleasant. Slept well last night. The coach was kept pleasantly cool. Had breakfast with Mr.Wheeler. Spent the forenoon listening to his account of the negotiations leading up to the London Wheat Agreement in which he took part at London, Geneva, and Rome. Dr.Ezekiel appeared after breakfast. We all had luncheon together. In the afternoon Dr.Ezekiel went over with me the wheat control agreements and the correspondence between the United States and the Argentine government regarding them.

At 4 p.m. the train was more than an hour late. The Pullman conductor had left without giving us our transfers to the Pullman on the Burlington out of Chicago. The train ~~did~~ conductor sent a telegram to the passenger agent at Chicago asking him to do what he could for us.

Crops in northern Indiana showed the effects of drouth. Corn was only about knee high and oats very short, sometimes not more than six inches and heading out.

The train made up part of its lost time. We got into the Chicago station at 6.30 p.m. and were rushed across to the Burlington station where the train had been held ten minutes for us. We had and excellent supper in a new dining car and then sat and smoked until 10 o'clock.

Tuesday, 17 July; clear and pleasant; Minneapolis. We reached Minneapolis at 7.45 ~~p~~a.m., ~~and~~ went to the Leamington Hotel and found a nice suite of rooms at our disposal adjoining a large committee room. Mr.Hansen, a Dane, manager for Mr.Murphy, came in. Mr.Nyhus, newly appointed agricultural attache to Argentina, followed. Later Messrs.McFarland and Grant of Canada came. Then Mr.Murphy,publisher of the Minneapolis Tribune, came, followed soon after by Mr.Webster of the Washington Information Service, two young women, a shorthand

reporter, and a young lady newspaper reporter.

The formal discussions started at 10 o'clock and lasted until noon when we all adjourned to the hotel dining room and had a nice luncheon. They discussions were then continued until 4.30 p.m. when a part of our group went out to the Minnedota Club for a game of golf. I took a walk down the street but it was hot and little was to be seen so I soon returned. I laid down on a couch and relaxed until 6.30 p.m. Then Mr.Murphy, a lady assistant, Dr.Ezekiel and I were driven through a beautiful residential section to a club house and grounds on a lake. There cocktails were served and we had a delicious supper on a balcony overlooking the lake, and returned. Mr.Nyhus came in and went to bed immediately. Mr.Wheeler and I sat up and smoked much later.

Wednesday, 18 July, Minneapolis; clear and pleasant. Mr. Wheeler and I had breakfast together. The meeting began at 10 a.m. and rapid progress was made in discussing the topics suggested. A draft of agreement between the American and Canadian groups was prepared by Dr.Ezekiel and it was adopted as expressing the sentiment of the meeting. We all had dinner together. The Canadians and Mr. Nyhus left in the afternoon. Mr.Davis, head of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, was present at today's meetings. After a furthertalk with Mr.Murphy his manager, Mr.Hansen, took Dr. Ezekiel, Mr.Wheeler, and I for an automobile ride around Lake Minnetonka. It was a beautiful drive.

After a brief rest ~~after~~ upon our return we were taken to the Minneapolis Club, had cocktails, and a nice supper. Then to the railway station and left on the Burlington at 9 p.m. During the day Dr.Ezekiel had a telegram from the Washington office saying that my appointment had been arranged for. Also Mr.Davis talked with me about having Mr.Theis go with me to Argentina as marketing expert

to which I readily agreed.

Thursday, 19 July, Chicago; clear and rather hot. Slept well last night after a bottle of beer before retiring. We reached Chicago at 8.15 a.m. and were driven across to the B.& O. Station where we checked our baggage. It had been decided that I should return with the others to Washington and have a day there before proceeding to New York.

We walked a few squares to a cheap restaurant and had a cup of coffee. Then walked about half a mile to Michigan Avenue, Dr.Ezekiel to take a taxi to the public library and Mr.Wheeler and I to take a bus to the Fair. We spent nearly an hour in the great planetarium and two hours walking about among the garish buildings, monstrosities they were, and saw some of the exhibits. I was greatly offended by the geometrical buildings unrelieved by a single frieze, facade, or column, and decorated by solid blocks of such crude and garish colors as appear on tomato and pickle cans. These buildings lacked three ~~essential~~ things essential to artistic beauty, namely, form, color, and harmony. About all that could be said of them was that they surpassed all other works of man in ugliness of form and offensiveness of color. I could imagine that they might please the eye of an infant and I wondered if the men who designed them had ever got beyond the infantile stage of ~~develop~~m artistic development. Chicago had always impressed me with a feeling of horror and the exterior appearance of this World's Fair simply deepened that nighmarish impression. The Planetarium, on the other hand, was a thing of beauty inside and out, but it was not a part of the Fair. Mr.Wheeler and I had a nice luncheon at the Italian restaurant with a bottle of excellent Chianti wine. We returned in a taxi to the railway station and were comfortably settled in our seats at 1.45 p.m., the train to leave at 2 p.m.

Friday, 20 July, Washington; clear and hot. Woke up after passing through Harper's Ferry. Looked out of the window as we passed Point of Rocks and up the Catoctin range and thought of Sunny Hill and home and family ~~just~~ only ten miles to the north. Reached Washington about 8.45 a.m. Checked my baggage and made out a Pullman ticket at the station and rode on a street car to 14th and the Avenue. Then went to the Health Department in the Municipal building and got a certificate of vaccination. Next took a taxi to Dr.Ezekiel's office. There I got some papers that were being held for me. Then to the office of Mr.Hart where I filled out a personal statement sheet and swore to it. The filling out of blanks with fine print still bothered me because of my eyes. To read small print, and it seemed that all blank forms were in small print, I had to use a magnifying glass. Also filled out a paper for the customs officer at New York. Then to the office of the Appointment Clerk where I was given a blank form of health certificate which I took to the Public Health Service in the old Postoffice Department Building. After a long wait I underwent a physical examination and was certified to as being in good condition except eyes. I could not read the signs across the room. I returned with the paper to the Appointment Division and saw Mr.~~Hanna~~ Gladmon for a few minutes. He assured me that all technicalities had been met, that I was on a strictly civil service basis, and that when I retired again I would get credit for the additional years I had lived and served since the first retirement.

I spent a little time in the office of Mr.Wheeler and together with one other we went to a restaurant on the water front and had a fish dinner with a glass of cream ale. At the Department I met Mr. Baer, the young German who was formerly with the Institute. He said he had just returned from a trip to Europe. I also saw Miss Eller-Ebrock and Miss Vieman of the Information Office.

In the interval before an appointment I slipped over to the Freer Art Gallery and the Smithsonian. Then Messrs.Ezekiel, Wheeler, Theis, Nyhus, and I were taken in the Secretary's car over to the State Department where we had a conference with Assistant Secretary Wells, the man who was sent to Cuba and made a mess of things. He was very tall and exceptionally dignified and imposing. He said that in all matters at Buenos Aires we should deal through the American Ambassador and that before making any speeches or giving out interviews we should first consult with the Minister of Agriculture. In response to my question he ~~said~~ said he thought it would be entirely proper to tell the Argentine authorities that if they were not willing to cooperate in the wheat deal the other exporting countries might decide to remove all restrictions and continue to pile up an unmarketable surplus that would increase the difficulties of Argentina in finding a market for her cereals.

After returning to the office of Dr.Ezekiel and discussing for the last time the question of policies we separated and I went to the office of the Munson Line to verify the time of sailing tomorrow and the pier number. Also took out insurance for $300 on my baggage. Then stopped at a place on 14th Street and had a bottle of beer. At the Cosmos Club I telephoned to wife and sister who both assured me that all was well at the farm. Read papers and magazinss until after 6 p.m. and then had a nice supper at a small restaurant on 14th Street. Later I walked as far as 7th Street and rode the rest of the way to the station. After resting awhile in the waiting room I went into the restaurant and had another bottle of beer. Then a smoke and at 10 p.m. went to my section in the Pullman. I was very tired and retired ~~early~~ promptly.

Saturday, 21 July, New York) clear and hot. Woke up at 6 am. shaved and dressed. At 6.30 a.m. the train stopped near the ferry and

on the Jersey side of the Hudson. Passengers were transferred to buses, ferried across, and stopped at various points to discharge ~~y~~ passengers. I went to the 42d Street Station where I checkdd my baggag. Then I took a subway train as far as Wall Street. At the Munson Line office I presented my transportation request and was given a ticket and some tags. From there I walked down Broadway, stopping to buy a supply of kodak films. I continued as far as the Battery and went in to inspect the acquarium. There were very few exhibits but many people were looking at them. By this time it was blazing hot in the sun. For awhile I watched several excursion steamers filling with passengers for upriver and seaside resorts. At a small van restaurant to one side of Battery Park I had a glass of beer. Then rode on the elevated train up 9th Avenue to 42d Street and walked across to the Grand Central Station. There I sat awhile and had a glass of lemonade. It was fairly comfortable in the station. I greatly admired the skyscrapers that rise like towers. They are so tall, so symmetrical, and so clean looking that it is all like a wonderland. They pierce the sky and seem ~~to float~~ so etherial as to float like a mirage. No other buildings in all the world so appeal to one's imagination.

The street traffic ~~is~~ was very confusing. In the subways one can go anywhere in the city on trains that travel underground at express speed for five cents, but one can see nothing. Then there are the elevated trains, the surface cars, and all sorts of motor vehicles. The elevated trains rush around and about the buildings like a snake, and one can at least see the daylight, the buildings, and catch glimpses of the sky. The great railway stations, the Grand Central and the Pennsylvania, are marvelous. They extend down many stories into the solid rock and many stories above the street level. Each is a city in itself, railway station, hotel, restaurant, drug store, book store, newsstand, cigr shop, clothing and trunk and bag shops,

and many other shops, so that a traveller can get transportation, shelter, food, service, and about everything he needs for himself or family without going outside of these immense structures.

After resting at the Grand Central Station I went to a shoe shop and bought a pair of shoes for winter wear. Then took a taxi and my baggage and was driven to pier No.64. In a few minutes I was installed in Cabin No.12 just in front of the dining room. The ship was crowded and there was much confusion. I at once changed my clothing and felt better. I soon saw Messrs.Nyhus and Theis but had no chance to talk with them.

I spent most of the afternoon on deck. The view of the great sin city and harbor were familiar to me but I never lost interest in them. We were out of sight of land by 5 p.m. The air was hazy and the sea calm.

Messrs.Theis, Nyhus, and I ate at the same table. I ordered a bottle of "Trapich" wine and noted that the price was $1.50. After a good supper we went to the smoking room for coffee, smokes, beer, and getting acquainted talk. In the mail that was delivered on the ship were letters from Otis, Ethel, mother, wife, and Emma Burton, and two instalments of transcript of the shorthand report of the Minneapolis meeting.

Sunday, 22 July, at sea; mostly clear, very hot, with thunder storm in the evening. A sm swimming tank was set up in the forenoon and every one had a swim. I wrote letters to most of my people to be mailed at Bermuda. After luncheon I took a long nap. In the late afternoon had a bottle of beer and a smoke. Many people sick because of agitated sea. Had a nice dinner and a short musical performance for the benefit of the passengers leaving tomorrow.

For several hours in the evening the lightning flashed almost continuously and the thunder rolled constantly like artillery,

at times almost shaking the ship. It was a remarkable display of electrical energy released at sea.

Monday, 23 July, at sea; hot. Up early, had a swim in the tank, dressed, and then breakfast and a cup of hot yerba mate. Wrote a letter to Thelma. It was a clear warm day with good breeze, blue sky and cumulus clouds, and a rippling blue sea.

By 10 a.m. we were drawing near Bermuda a few miles off shore. The island is surrounded by a coral reef and the ship had to go out of its way to find an entrance. From the ship the island looked long and narrow with a dome shaped hill at each end connected by a low ridge with a long sandy beach and houses on the hillside that were dazzling white in the morning sunlight. A passenger who had visited the island many times said it produced celery, onions, and lilies. The ship stopped well out in the harbor. A heavy shower came up and obscured the view so that photographs could not be taken. Quite a number of passengers were transferred to a lighter about noon.

After luncheon our things were moved to cabins on the deck above the dining room that were larger and more comfortable. Mr. Nyhus and I had adjoining cabins with a bath room between.

I got out my papers, bulletins, and data that had been supplied in Washington and Minneapolis and made a list of them and began studying the Final Act that was adopted at the Wheat Conference at London in August, 1933.

In the late afternoon the Entertainment Manager, Mr.Lewis, had many of the passengers meet on the deck back of the smoking room where cocktails and sandwitches were served and proceeded to organize a sports committee with chairman, secretary, treasurer, and subcommittees. It was a get-together and get-acquainted meeting with the little orchestra supplying the music and the passengers sang Auld Lang Syne, Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet, She'll be Com'in Down the

Mountain When She Comes, How Dry I Am, Nobody Knows How Dry I Am, and The Gang's All Here, What th' Hell Do We Care, and the like. There was much hilarity, especially among a group of elderly business men, some with their wives, who called themselves the Coffee Committee on their way to Brazil as guests of the Brazillian government.

We had an excellent supper and then I began writing a letter to mother with an account of the voyage. At 11 p.m. I went out and found music and dancing on the rear deck. There were several pretty young women and the dancing was lively and vigorous to the strains of jazz music. After the orchestra and most of the dancers dispersed two pretty blonds furnished entertainment. One sat at the piano and played a succession of socalled popular pieces and a group of men stood about and tried to sing. The other blond sat in the lap of one of the gentleman with her bare arms about his neck. She led the singing, clapped her hands, and wriggled about in time to the music. The group of men that gathered about the two girls sang lustily but most discordantly and hilariously and made much noise until 1.40 a.m. Messrs.Nyhus, Theis, and I sat through the performance with an occasional glass of beer and a smoke.

~~(Mother--Minneapolis Meeting--23 July, brown folder)~~

(Transfer to p. 4938)

Tuesday, 24 July, at sea; good weather and beautiful sky and sea. The sky was covered with small white cumulus clouds. The sea was blue and smooth except for cross ripples. In the east was a dark space in the sky where it was raining and this side of the dark space was an area of the sea where the sun shone that made it look like burnished gold.

I was up at 8 a.m., had a swim and breakfast, and felt sleepy for quite awhile. In fact I ~~fit~~ felt much enervated and had no appetite for luncheon. Slept through the afternoon and when I got up for supper realized that I had taken cold, probably from having the electric fan going while I slept.

In a short conversation with Messrs.Theis and Nyhus I found that they disapproved of the Three A's (A.A.A., Agricultural Adjustment Administration) quite as much as I did. They agreed that all that had been done so far was one temporary expedient after another and that later on the real trouble would come when the weather intervened or prices rose as a result of scarcity and because of it farmers and production would get out of control. Also that there was a limit to the government's role as Santa Claus at the expense of taxpayers.

Wednesday, 25 July, at sea; a pleasant day with blue sky, white clouds, and a blue rippling sea. Retired early last night and slept through until after 9 a.m. and felt much better for it. For awhile I studied wheat statistics and then began reading a book in Spanish, "Don Segunda Sombra" by Ricardo Guiraldes. Had a nap and a swim in the afternoon. After supper took part in a game of keno. As played here the players were provided with cards on which numbers were printed. Numbers were drawn from a receptacle and called out. The players placed a bean on the corresponding numbers on the cards. The first one to get a series of five numbers across his card called

out "Keno." The numbers were then read off as a check and if correct he was awarded the pot made up of prices paid for the cards, which in this case was twenty-five cents each. In the first game I was the first to get five numbers covered and called "Keno." However, on checking back it was discovered that I had made a mistake, and was therefore penalized another twenty-five cents. I had placed a bean over the number 41 when 14 was called. This bothered me a good deal because I could not decide whether I had failed to hear the number called correctly or whether I had misread the number 41 as 14. I played a second game and then quit, my experience having cost me seventy-five cents.

I did but little reading and writing during the day because my sight is still very poor and no better than it was several weeks ago

It was very pleasant on the after deck with a cool breeze blowing and the sound of swishing waves. A full moon was shining and throwing a path of silver light across the sea.

Thursday, 26 July, at sea; a lovely day with slowly rising wind and sea, a blue sky flecked with white clouds, an emerald sea, and at night a full moon shining through the clouds.

I slept until 10 a.m., had a swim and breakfast, and then put in some time studying data. I paid particular attention to Dr. Ezekiel's reply to the allegation of the Argentine authorities that the United States itself had not lived up to the London wheat agreement. The reply was an ingenious one but not entirely convincing. The London agreement called for a reduction of fifteen per cent in average acreage and production. After spending over $100,000,000 in bribing farmers to reduce acreage, to say nothing of an intensive campaign of propaganda and the use of the entire Extension Service, the government by its own figures succeeded in getting a reduction

of nine percent, the other six per cent being caused solely and entirely by the severe drouth in the plains states.

One of the young women went about all day in abbreviated bathing costume, short panties, a simple band across her breasts, and sandalXs. She was shapely, very pretty, and attrated much attention from both men and women.

Had a delicious supper. A large bridge party was organized in the evening in which I took no part. Instead I worked up some wheat statistics from data in the 1933 Yearbook. Then to the afterdeck and saw some moving pictures. After they were over I went into the smoking room, had a whisky and soda, smoked, and read some Spanish. It was a quiet evening in comparison with previous ones.

Friday, 27 July, at sea; a pleasant day, mild, good breeze, blue sky and sea, and very little motion in the ship.

I spent several hours figuring out the relation between the production and exports of wheat of each of the four principal exporting countries and world production and exports to determine the relative importance of each.

In the afternoon did some more work and reading, took a short nap, had a bath, a drink, and supper, and then watched a horse race gambling game on the after deck in which a good deal of money was won and lost. Went to bed early.

Saturday, 28 July, at sea; partly cloudy with good breeze and a moderate sea. The ship was headed southeast from Bermuda and we were about opposite the Caribbean. The clock was set ahead one hour last night. Passengers were late in getting up because so many of them sat up until 2 a.m.

At 1 p.m. many of the passengers assembled back f of the smoke room on the afterdeck and had a buffet luncheon. There were barely tables enough to go round and the service was slow. I decided that

once was enough for me. After luncheon they sang such songs as My Old Kentucky Home, Old Gray Bonnet, Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight, The Bowery, Ben Bolt, The Long, Long Trail A-Winding, I've Been Working on the Railroad, Molly Darling, Auld Lang Syne, Bring Back My Bonnie to Me, some Neapolitan songs, and several others,

I sat with a German who looked like an Italian and an American from Nebraska who had lived at Montevideo for many years. They were both very enthusiastic at the entertainment provided on the ship. Evidently the employment of a professional organizer of sports and entertainment was a success.

Had a nap in the afternoon and after supper dressed for a masquerade. I wore my Tuxedo coat, collar and tie backwards and a mask face on the back of my head, and with a cane held in my left hand practiced walking backwards. This made me look like a clergyman and I was at once seized upon to accompany a couple dressed as bride and groom. Some of the costumes were rather attractive but most of them were crude and ugly. Following the procession there was a Paul Jones dance, which was like an old country dance where men and women lined up on opposite sides and went through various maneuvers. Following this was some vaudeville skits, some fancy dancing, and some operatic singing. Then came drinks and much hilarity until midnight when the bar closed. A lone vaudeville performer furnished music with a banjo and a mouth organ to which there was a Spanish dance, a Japanese dance, and other dances, much hilarity in which I joined, and much drinking. The party broke up at 3 a.m.

During the evening I got acquainted with a lively old lady of huge proportions of the Jewish persuation, with her son Paul, a young man of very peculiar appearance. Her name was Mrs.Elkins and she gushed greatly when she learned that I had been acquainted with David Lubin, knew his son Simon, and had lived in Rome.

Sunday, 29 July, at sea; a beautiful day. Went to bed last night at 3.30 a.m. Up at 11 a.m. and had breakfast in cabin. Luncheon at 2.20 p.m. I went to the smbkeing room and read through the Fiscal Regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

Near where I sat was a group of passengers that called themselves the Gin Fiz Club. When one of them announced that the supply of gin on the ship was exhausted another member procured from the steward a large placard and some black ribbon. On the card he wrote in large letters "Gin Is All," hung it up in a conspicuous place and draped the black ribbon over it. Another convivial member hung up a card with the legend "Where Will We All Be 50 Years From Now?"

I had a long talk with a Mr.Renard, manager for the J.I.Case Company at Buenos Aires. He seemed to be unusually well informed about the situation in Argentina, and from him I learned that the name of the President of the Republic was General Justo and that the Minister of Agriculture was Sr. Duhau.

There was a beautiful sunset and we had a good supper. In the evening I wrote a letter and did a little reading.

(Wife, 29 July, brown folder)

At sea, Sunday, 29 July 1934.

"Dear Wifey:

"On the chance that this letter can be mailed at Rio de Janeiro next week I will try to put something down especially for you. For some days I have been writing a few paragraphs in form of a diary of the voyage in a letter to mother which also may be mailed at Rio.

"We have had ideal weather, beautiful skies and sea, good meals, and much diversion on the ship. From Bermuda the ship has headed due southeast for the eastern cape of Brazil, thus shortening the voyage several days.

"I take one swim a day, enjoy my meals, feel very well, and do a little studying and reading each day. My sight is improving very slowly and I still have to use a glass to read ordinary print for more than a minute or two. I am taking the ten-drop medicine regularly.

"Daily and several times a day I wish you could be with me. Many of the luncheons are served on the after deck and are like picnics. I prefer to eat in the dining room, but I know you would enjoy the inconvenience and discomfort of the picnics. I believe also you would enjoy the abandon and hilarity of the old people--and most of the passenger list are old. I am sure you would enjoy the mummery connected with the Neptune ceremonies tomorrow.

"I wonder if Graytoes has her new family yet; whether you have found a home for Mittens; how the other cats and the two dogs are making out; whether the sweet corn is ripe; whether the wheat has been threshed; and whom you have with you this week and next. I would feel better about you if I knew you had some one to be with you continuously until I return.

"I wish you had our salt water swimming pool to play around in.

"With love to all. Buenos noches. Daddy.

(My address in Buenos Aires will be 'C/o U.S.Agricultural Attache, Boston Bank, Buenos Aires, Argentina').

All day long the ship plowed steadily through the waves, the bow rising and falling slowly with the rythmic motion of a slowly galloping horse, and each tiax time it fell into the waves there was a splash and a roar as the spray flew through the air with a hissing sound. For me there is nothing quite like a great ocean liner pursuing its way over the trackless sea, in daylight and darkness, in tranquil seas and in turbulent storms, arriving unerringly at its destination at the appointed time.

On the wall in one of the companionways I noticed the following placard.

"Know Ye By These Presents, That on the American Legion we, the Heiser Brothers of the Deep, do come to the surface from the bottom of the sea to baptise and initiate the Sacred Order of Neptune, all ye landlubbers, tin horns, and greenhorns, who have never crossed the Line before.

"Be it known that they will be officially lathered and shaved with various mixtures of slumgullion so that no sharks, whales, crabs, crayfish, pollywogs, or sea cooties will ever harm them. They are entitled to enter Davy Jones's Locker and feed the sea pigs, milk the sea cows, ride the sea horses, but never, never will they be allowed to flirt with or gambol with the Mermaids. They will then be allowed to enter the Palace of Old Neptune himself, but never in the form of Swort Fish or Octopus. BEWARE.

"Neptune Rex."

Monday, 30 July, at sea; fair, strong breeze, rough sea, and a good deal of motion in the ship.

I read some of the transcript of the shorthand report of the Minneapolis meeting to refresh my memory. The dining room was very hot because the portholes had to be closed to keep out the spray.

At 2 p.m., after some delay, the passengers gathered on the after deck for dancing and to prepare for the ceremonies that had been planned for crossing the Equator. A committee was in charge and it wss announced that the wishes of all those who did not care to take part in the ceremonies would be respected. Those who had signified their willingness to be inducted into King Neptune's Domain were dressed in bathing suits. The after deck was covered with canvas and set with several boxes, barrels, and an ice chect. On one of the boxes were several large bottles filled with liquid of different colors and svveral ~~quart~~ squirt guns. Above this stand was a sign that read "Doctor Hurtem." The raised portion of the deck served as a sort of stage and about it were gathered many passengers, some of them with cameras.

After much waiting a procession like a masquerade came along the side of the main deck and filed up onto the stage. The procession represented King Neptune, an assistant, and guards. Neptune was represented by a ~~large~~ big man with long flowing beard and carrying a large trident. He and one of his assistants sat behind one of the tables. A court crier sat to one side and called out the names of the candidate victims. The guards, wearing bathing suits and steel helmets, painted in ferocious style and carrying clubs, captured the victim whose name had been called and dragged him or her before Neptune. He or she was commanded to kneel before his desk with knees on floor and hands on desk which made ~~the~~ connection with a concealed battery that gave him a shock. Then the court crier read off a trumped up charge against the victim, always ridiculous, of course, and Neptune would pronounce sentence. The guards would then drag the victim away and hoist him onto the operating table of Doctor Hurtem. Here the victim would be forcibly held while the doctor and guards squirted colored liquids over his face and body, placed chunks of

ice inside his bathing suit and rubbed soap inside his mouth. Usually by this time the victim would begin to struggle violently and would be overpowered roughly and brutally. Then he would be dragged across the stage and thrown on a heap of bags and held down forcibly while others rubbed vermicelli and mashed tomatoes and broken eggs over his face, in his mouth, eyes, ears, and hair, and outside and inside his bathing suit. To add to the disgusting spectacle the "dope" (vermicelli,tomatoes and eggs) were tipped over in the struggle and sloshed over the stage and the guards were covered with it. When the victim was finally released gasping for breath he would be thrown headlong into the swimming pool, which soon looked like a pig stye. This was repeated many times. At first there was applause and hilarity until the appearance of brutality and nastiness became apparent and then the spectators stood about in shocked silence. The most shocking scene of all was the initiation of one of the laughing, blue eyed, shapely blonds dressed in scanty bathing suit. When placed on the operating table she was a beautiful object and because she was a woman it was expected that she would be handled gently. Instead she was manhandled in brutal fashion and ~~submitted~~ subjected to many indignities. I, and I suppose other men who witnessed the performance, felt strongly inclined to go to my cabin and get a revolver and stop the disgraceful spectacle. The officers of the ship had disappeared. Then, as prearranged in the program, one of the victims ~~rebelled~~ resisted; others came to his assistance; the guards were overpowered, Neptune's desk was overturned, the doctor's operating table was broken up and his bottles thrown into the sea, and a gang of roustabouts appeared with hose and swab and spent the rest of the afternoon cleaning up the mess.

I and many others were very indignant at the brutal, disgusting, and offensive spectacle that had been put on and did not

hesitate to say so. Several of the passengers who had sailed in the ships of other nationalities, British, Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Japanese, said they had crossed the Equator and had never before witnessed such rough play. I was much wrought up over it and because I was outspoken in condemnation I had three or four of the younger passengers on my hands at once. One said, "Oh, but it was only a little horseplay." I replied, "I know something about horses and while they sometimes play roughly they are never nasty. Besides, horseplay should be confined to horses and not to humans. The place for those who like horseplay is in the stable or barnlot with horses where, if they get too brutal or nasty, they would be promptly kicked out and silenced." No more from him. Then a young lady took up the cudgels by saying "But it was all in sport." "Not clean sport" I retorted. "Clean sport is neither brutal nor nasty. Besides, the brutal infliction of indignities by overpowering physical strength and violence where the victim has no chance to either defend himself or retaliate is most emphatically not sport in any sense of the word. It was simply assault and battery and an exhibition of juvenile hoodlumism and cruelty. It is a base slander to call such an exhibition sport. Look in any good dictionary and see what the word 'sport' really means." No more from her. An offi officer passing through the smoking room ~~and~~ remarked "Pretty good, wasn't it?" I took up the challenge instantly and said, "Pretty bad, very bad, atrociously bad, disgracefully bad; a disgrace to any American ship and the officers on that ship. The officers by permitting such a disgraceful, nasty and offansive exhibition have laid their owners open to prosecution in the courts at home." He departed instantly without saying a word. Then a woman with a white face whose husband was one of the members of the committee wanted to know why I objected, I did not have to witness the entertainment

if I did not want to, and nobody had to take part in the game unless they wanted to, and everyone who was initiated did so after signing a paper signifying his or her willingness to go through with it. I said: "I will answer all your questions. I object to such a spectacle because it was brutal and nasty, disgusting, revolting,and offensive. I saw it because I thought I could assume that those who took part in it were gentleman and that it was a game, "sport,"if you will," for the entertainment of the passengers, those who participated as well as the spectators, but it turned out to be an exhibition of cruel back-alley hoodlumism of which mature persons would not be suspected of being guilty. Just because I thought, and I had a right to think, it would be an interesting entertainment Ixwamkxd and never dreamed that it would be a shocking display of brutality and nastiness I wanted to see it. Such a display was wholly incredible until I had seen it.

"Of course I could have left at any moment. Nobody would have prevented it. But my habit is to see a thing through, however disagreeable it may be. Furthermore,I had crossed the Equator many times and never witnessed the ceremonies we have all raad about. I wanted to see these ceremonies as an eyewitness so that I could describe what I saw to others. Unfortunately the hoodlums in charge put on a ghastly, filthy, outrageous performance which I deeply resent.

"You are right in saying that those who submitted to be maltreated gave their written consent beforehand. Why? Because they assumed that the men who took part in the performance were gentleman who would not transgress or transcend the accepted rules of decency. I doubt if a single one of the victims would consent for one moment to submit to the indignities and cruel treatment to which they were subjected if they had suspected what was coming.

"I don't see how any sane person who stops to think can

defend the occurrence of this afternoon on any reasonable ground. It was not entertainment, because it was shocking. It was not sport, because the victims were deceived by thinking they were to take part in an entertainment or a game or a sport and when they realized what was happening they did not resist because they were still laboring under a delusion; also they were overpowered, helpless, and did not have a sporting chance to defend themselves. Such a situation was a travestty upon and a profanation of the term sport and the very spirit of sport. Besides it was an offence against common decency and an insult to every decent person who willingly or unwillingly was a witness. It was an inexcusable exhibition of brutality, filth, nastiness and ugliness, and vulgar in the highest degree. Such things are crimes against both decency and good taste. There is no excuse for artificial or unnecessary ugliness. This unfortunate and unnecessary incident has marred the pleasure of this voyage. It will be an unpleasant and regrettable memory to every one who saw it or took part in it. I protest against it here and now and I expect to continue to protest against it in future and propose to tell my friends about it both publicly and privately. It should cost the owners of this ship some thousands of dollars for having permitted such an offensive exhibition."

When I stopped I suddenly realized that a large group was gathered about me and for a moment I felt embarrassed because I had not intended to say so much. There was silence as I ceased speaking. Then Mrs.Elkins, the large Jewess, spoke up and said she thought I was exactly right and she was glad her son Paul had not had to undergo the ordeal. He had signed up as one of the candidates but had not been reached. This statement caused the audience to relax and smile. Later several passengers came to me and said they fully approved of all I had said and were glad that I had said it.

That evening at the supper table (we had been shifted to a larger one after leaving Bermuda) Mr.Theis, who was one of the victims but had not heard what I had said was not present when I made my statement in the afternoon, being fully occupied elsewhere in trying to clean himself) said, addressing me, "So you did not approve of the ceremonies this afternoon?" "Certainly not," I replied, "I hate brutality, nastiness, and ugliness." "But why?" asked a young lady sitting next to me, a very attractive and highly educated woman. "Well," I said,"I was hot with indignation this afternoon and spoke more freely than I intended to and felt embarrassed. I said then in substance that the whole proceeding was offensive to all decent people who witnessed it because it was brutal, nasty, and ugly. No one can deny that. I have been turning the matter over in my mind since and asking myself myself why I was so much wrought up about it. I think I have the answer. The men were overpowered, thrown down, dragged about, held helpless while others subjected them to brutal and nauseating indignities. A delicate woman was manhandled brutally and shamefully in public. I grew up in the State of Texas where every man either carries a revolver or is presumed to carry one. That makes every man polite and courteous to every other man and he avoids giving offence lest he be shot.instantly and on the spot. Also the boys and men grow up with the universal idea that women are to be respected and protected by them. Therefore these Texas men have a very deep seated almost instinctive feeling that a person, any person, man or woman, but more especially women, should not be touched or treated roughly or with disrespect under penalty of death at the hands of the aggrieved party. The physical overpowering and mistreatment of an unarmed man or woman by a group of ruffians, such as we saw this afternoon, is shocking to any one from Texas and I was shocked beyond expression."

Some one else interposed with "But, Mr.Estabrook,you certainly don't believe that any one would be justified in shooting his tormenters in an affair such as we had this afternoon." "I most certainly do," I replied. "Every Texan fully believes that his Constitutionally guaranteed right to 'life, liberty,and the pursuit of happiness' includes his personal integrity, his good name, his selfrespect, the sanctity and untouchability of his body, as well as that of all other human beings, especially of women, and he believes that it is such a personal matter, this personal body of his, that he has a right to defend it by killing an aggressor without bringing the matter into court or depending upon the law to protect and defend him. I believe that if a group of men from Texas had been present this afternoon, or if the incident had happened in Texas, they might have stood by and seen the men maltreated on the theory that the male victims would right their own wrongs and retaliate as soon as they could get to their arms, but the last man of them would have sprung to the defence of the woman who was being manhandled so shamefully in public." "But you yourself would not shoot a man who violated the sanctity of your person in fun, would you?" asked another. "Most assuredly I would," I replied, and "without the slightest hesitation or compunction. You see men who manhandle other men and women brutally and with indignities are not only brutal by nature but congenital cowards because they take advantage of numbers or superior physical strength against unarmed victims who are helpless and have no chance to defend themselves, and the brutes responsible for it, should be locked up or shot, preferably the latter."

"Strong language" remarked one of the men. "Yes," I replied "but wholly inadequate to express how profoundly I was shocked at seeing grown men and a woman brutally manhandled and covered with filthy spaghetti, putrid tomatoes, and rotten eggs, a most nauseating

spectacle and about on the level of the instincts, tastes, and intelligence of an alley hoodlum of about twelve. It was a most disgraceful, discreditable, and deplorable affair, shocking and inexcusable from every point of view. If any one does not fully understand how I feel about it I will elaborate although I am physically and mentally sick over it. Because I am sure I can never forget the revolting things I saw this afternoon I feel that every one responsible for it has done me a personal and a permanent injury." It was a very quiet, thoughtful, and subdued group that left our table.

A moving picture was shown on the after deck depicting college life in a coed institution and a love affair. In the smoking room I had a bottle of beer and a smoke. Then to my cabin for some writing. Later I went up to the smoking room again for another bottle of beer and a smake. For awhile I strolled about the decks watching the moon through the flitting clouds and shining on the agitated sea.

Observing a group of people in the social lounge I joined tham. A professional vaudeville artist was entertaining them with a guitar and a mouth organ attached to his chin, playing the two instruments simultaneously. The music was agreeable and the performer played every tune that was suggested or hummed to him. He entertained the group until after 2 a.m. I was thoroughly tired but remained to the end with the thought that I might never again have an opportunity to hear such music. In the group was an Argentine opera singer with an engagement in Buenos Aires. Also several talented players who accompanied on the piano.

Tuesday, 31 July, at sea; raining in the morning, an agitated sea and a pitching ship. Slept through until 11 a.m., had a swim in the tank, dressed and had some breakfast in my cabin.

The passengers were all very quiet after their strenusous exercises of yesterday.

In the evening we could see the lights of Pernambuco which were very pretty and reminded me of Miami seen from the sea at night.

In talking with Messrs. Theis and Nyhus we were agreed that little or nothing could be done in Argentina in connection with the wheat agreement because of the difficulties involved in any such scheme of control and the impossibility of predicting the weather, the crop, or the economic conditions in future. Apparently all we could hope to do would be to talk things over with the Argentine authorities and get their point of view and report back to Washington.

Mr. Nyhus was evidently proud of his Sweedish descent. Also he was a student, intelligent, had learned much in China, was very self-confident, but at times his mind seemed to hang fire most tenaciously over a phrase or an idea that would seem perfectly clear to others. For example he was much troubled because in the London wheat agreement the signatory governments agreed in one place to reduce the <u>area</u> sown to wheat and in another place to reduce the <u>production</u> of wheat. Of course, the object of the agreement was to bring about a reduction in production and the best way to accomplish that object was to reduce the area sown, and whether one spoke of area sown or production harvested would depend on the time of year in relation to the crop under consideration. Yet, somehow, Mr.Nyhus seemed to think there was a contradiction in terms in the agreement that had rssulted in confusion and misunderstanding among those who signed it.

Mr.Theis seemed to have had much experience in the grain business, was accustomed to addressing public meetings, and seemed to have met many public men.

In the evening I sat in the smoking room, had a bottle of beer,

smoked, and listened to the lively chatter about me. Near me was a group of Argentinians and I heard some beautiful Spanish. Unquestionably Spanish when spoken by a soft voiced lady is one of the most beautiful and musical languages ever invented.

Wednesday, 1 Aug.,at sea; clear, misty, and calm sea. Slept from 10.30 p.m. to 10.30 a.m. Studying wheat statistics and discussed them with Mr.Nyhus . Took a long nap in the afternoon and dressed in Tuxedo for the Captain's dinner. It was ~~Yø~~ like all others, dining room decorated, a good supper, followed by music, dancing, and much noise. After the supper I finished a typewritten journal of the voyage to mail to mother at Rio.

At 11 p.m. I went up to the smoking room and had drinks with Messrs.Theis and Nyhus. After they wandered off I was joined by an Argentine gentleman and a German who had spent much time in South America and we talked Spanish for awhile. They started a game of bridge and I excused myself. The smoking room was full of people. The little commedian, Bert Fayr, was playing his guitar and mouth organ and there was dancing and much hilarity. At one stage of the gaity Mr.Westfield of New Orleans took a lady and danced with her across the room and back, then separated, and ~~one on each side of~~ each taking me by an arm me started to repeat. I joined in the spirit of the dance and at the end of the room we were joined by two more ladies and another gentleman, making three couples. It was a wild dance and brought ~~much~~ much applause. There were other dances and games until after midnight when all the women and most of the men retired. By 1 a.m.only seven men were left. From time to time one of them would go to his cabin and return with a bottle of gin or whiskey and treat the others They sang one song after another most discordantly but with great gusto. The drinks circulated freely but no one got drunk. I remained with them just to see what they would do. It was interesting to me

to watch middle aged men who were very sedate during the day trying to sing and how they waved their arms, cavorted over the floor trying to dance, and I thought that probably I should never see such a sight again, but as life is made up of experiences rather than mere years, this is one of them.

(Wife, 1 Aug.,brown folder)

Mother

"At sea en route N.Y. to Buenos Aires,
to August 1,
Monday, 23 July, 1934.

"Dear Mother:

"I know you are always interested in my accounts of my travels and I am interested in trying to make you see some of the things I see through my eyes.

"You will ~~recall~~ remember how suddenly and unexpectedly the Department of Agriculture called me back into service as a consulting specialist in order to help out in the world wheat marketing program. The program was adopted at the International Wheat Conference in London last year when the four exporting nations of Argentina, Australia, Canada and the United States agreed to reduce their acreage in wheat and to limit their exports to certain quotas agreed upon, and the importing nations of Europe agreed to discourage wheat production, increase wheat consumption, and remove barriers to the free trade in wheat, all to the end of getting rid of ~~a tremendous~~ an enormous surplus that had accumulated and was keeping down the price of wheat. All of the adhering governments have kept that agreement, except only Argentina, which has a bumper crop and has disregarded her export quotas. It is to secure better cooperation from the Argentine Government that I have been called back into service.

"The first step was a conference at Minneapolis between the representatives of the United States, Mr.Chester C. Davis, Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel, Economic Adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Paul Nyhus, newly appointed Agricultural Attache at Buenos Aires, and myself as Consulting Specialist; and the Canadian Representatives, Mr. McFarland of Winnipeg, in charge of Canadian Wheat Sales, and Prof.H.C.Grant, the economic brain trust of Canada; with Mr. Frederick E. Murphy, publisher of the Minneapolis Tribune, who was a delegate to the

London Wheat Conference last year, presiding. Our meetings lasted two days and were highly gratifying because of the unanimity of the Canadians and Americans. In all our discussions there was not a single point of difference because we understood each other's situation so well and saw things from exactly the same point of view. At the last minute it was decided to strengthen the American delegate to Argentina, myself, with Mr.Frank A. Theis, Director of the Wheat Section of the Adgricultural Adjustment Administration, because of his familiarity with the intricacies and technique of marketing wheat.

"We had a suite of rooms, including a large conference room, at the/ the Leamington Hotel, and part of the time were guests of Mr.Murphy who dined us at the Minneapolis Club and one of the lakeside clubs and took us for a tour about the city and around Minnetonka Lake. It was very enjoyable. Minneapolis has the finest suburban homes, landscape gardening, and parks and lakes of any city I have seen unless it be Boston. All about the city are many beautiful lakes surrounded by green sward, meadows, groves of native forest trees, and fine homes.

"We left Minneapolis Wednesday night and were in Chicago the next morning. Having several hours to wait between trains we went out to the World's Fair, which is clustered about the Field Museum and the Planetarium on the Lake front. We saw a wonderful exhibition at the Planetarium. It is in a large permanent building, the interior of which was in complete darkness, and above the audience was represented the stars and planets as points of light, each in its proportionate intensity of brightness, size, and position, and the wonderful mechanism made these heavenly bodies move with mathematical precision exactly as they do in nature, only the motions can be speeded up so as to show in a few minutes the positions of the stars every night in the year, or any year in the past or future. A lady on a raised plat-

form explained in a clear voice what was happening. The North Star and Great Dipper were shown, as well as the true and the false Southern Cross. To me it was a wierd, uncanny, mysterious, and wonderfully realistic representation of the starlit heavens.

"Outside was the great fair. To me the modernistic buildings were distinctly offensive, monstrosities, in form of great oil or gas tanks and boxlike blocks painted with garish crude colors of red, blue, or yellow, without beauty of either form or color or significance, and not half as attractive as many of the horrid advertising signs that mar our roadsides and landscapes. If I had my way all the architects and socalled artists responsible for these offenses would be confined in lunatic asylums. If that is what the world is coming to I don't want to live to see it.

"We returned to Washington in the air-conditioned Pullman coaches of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway. These coaches are a great comfort in hot weather. The comforts, conveniences, and service provided on these trains is far superior to what they were only a few years ago. In that respect automobiles and buses cannot compete with them. Crossing northern Indiana and Ohio we saw the effects of the prolonged drouth. The wheat shocks were very small compared to those in Maryland, uncut oats were about ten inches high, meadows short and brown, and corn very irregular.

"Friday was a strenuous day for us in Washington making final preparations for our trip to Argentina. We left that night for New York, where we arrived early the next morning. At Jersey City we transferred to buses, crossed the North River on a ferry boat, and were driven up Fourth Avenue to the Grand Central Station at Forty-Second Street. There I checked my baggage and rode on the subway down town. I confess I don't like the subway because it is simply an underground tunnel and one can see nothing. However, the trains go

through at express speed and the fare to any point is only five cents. After arranging for my steamer ticket I walked down Broadway to the Battery, saw Miss Liberty out in the River, ~~and~~ Ellis Island and the Brooklyn Bridge, and then took a look at the Aquarium, which has a fine collection of fishes and other forms of marine life.

"I returned to the railway station on the elevated railway. All the time I was in New York I found myself contrasting what I saw with what I remembered seeing exactly forty years before. The outlines of the city, the rivers, the bay, the bridge, Ellis Island, Liberty Statue, and the names of the streets are the same, but everything else is changed. Then the streets were traversed by horse-drawn street cars, carriages, and drays, and the highest building in the city was the World Building near the end of the Brooklyn Bridge. Now in the lower part of the city all the old buildings have been removed and replaced by monumental structures that soar to incredible heights, so tall and slender that they seem things of grace and beauty, a sort of magic land that appeals to the imagination as nothing else in all the world. And from below comes the mighty rythmic roar of trains and countless motor-driven vehicles as the stupendous curb to curb traffic is regulated by automatic red and green lights. Curiously enough the only horse I saw in New York City on this occasion was a Texas mustang with a cowboy rider.

"We boarded the S.S.American Legion bound for Buenos Aires at noon Saturday. It has a rather large passenger list, many visitors, and there was the usual confusion and excitement. The ship sailed at 2 p.m. daylight saving time. The atmosphere was hot and hazy and one could not see very clearly or take photographs of the wonderful water-front. The towers and spires of the skyscraper city were inspiring and surpass anything else to be seen in the world. In the late after-noon we were out of sight of land and the sea became somewhat agitated

and many passengers disappeared in their staterooms. The American Legion is a fine ship, painted white inside and out, and has every modern convenience. The whole aspect of the ship is clean and cheerful and I am delighted with it.

"Sunday was spent in getting acquainted with the ship and in sampling the great variety of well cooked food. We were out in the Gulf Stream and it was rather close and hot in spite of ventilators and fans in the staterooms. A tank swimming pool was set up and filled with clear green sea water and we had a delightful swim. My old bathing suit was riddled with moth holes, but can still be worn.

"Today, Monday, 23d July. It was a beautiful forenoon with a blue sky, great cottony white cumulus clouds, and a rippling blue sea with racing whitecaps and a strong breeze. Swarms of little silvery flying fish flitted from wave to wave. We drew into the coral barrier reef about Bermuda at 11 a.m. and many passengers left on a lighter. Unfortunately there was not time for us to go ashore; also just at that time a heavy rain storm passed over, preventing us from taking photographs of the dazzling white houses up the slope of two hummocky hills, one at each end of the island. Our party had two swims in the tank today and it was delightful. The ship has a small orchestra and a host, or official organizer of entertainments. The first entertainment was a cocktail party aft of the smoking room and bar for the purpose of organizing sports and games. The bar is doing a thumping business. It is good to see how a few drinks of beer or spirits livens up the passengers, breaks the ice, and contributes to good will, peace, and happiness and the joy of living. At this gathering the cocktails and other refreshments were served free by the management. The orchestra played and the passengers joined in singing Auld Lang Sine, Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet, She'll be Comin'

Down the Mountain When She Comes, and whenever the drinks were about exhausted, Oh, How Dry I Am, Nobody Knows How Dry I Am, all of which aroused much hilarity.

"On board is a large delegation of American business men on their way to Rio de Janeiro as guests of the Brazilian Government to be educated in the merits of coffee. Brazil has a coffee surplus problem exactly like our surplus wheat problem and she is trying to extend and increase the consumption of coffee to get rid of the surplus instead of burning or dumping it into the sea thousands of tons, as she has had to do in the past.

"After the Bermuda passengers left we were transferred to larger cabins higher up. I have a fine large stateroom, with two closets, dressers, chairs, a table, bed, and bath room, so I shall live in luxury until I reach Buenos Aires.

"At 11 p.m. I went up to the deck back of the smoking room. The orchestra was playing, several couples were dancing, and a miniature golf game was in progress. At midnight the party thinned out somewhat, leaving about a dozen men and two very attractive young women. One of the young woman took the piano and accompanied the other as she sang modern popular songs. Both had little on above the waist line and the singer sat in a man's lap with her arms about his neck. The group of men standing about were middle aged business men, rather elderly and with big waist lines and somewhat clumsy in their movements. They grew hilarious at times, locked arms, danced about, and tried to join in the singing with rather raucous voices. It was a noisy bout and lasted until 2 a.m.

"Tuesday was another beautiful day, but hot. Because of the heat the night before I slept under an electric fan and woke up with a cold in the head. However, it passed off before night. At night I again heard carousing until nearly 2 a.m.

"Wednesday was delightful, with a blue cloud-flecked sky, a good breeze, and a rippling blue sea. It was pleasantly cool. I spent several hours studying material for use at Buenos Aires, and ~~thr~~ then got a Spanish novel from the library and began to limber up my tongue on Spanish. My two companions are thoroughly enjoying the voyage and are beginning to complain of eating too much. I had a nice swim in the crystal clear sea water and a ride on the mechanical horse. Practically the whole passenger list is organized in a series of comprtitive games.

"Thursday, Viernes; another ideal day of blue skies and sea with a lovely breeze and not much to do except go in swimming and eat or play games. All day a very beautiful young lady participated in the various games dressed only in a very short bathing suit with nothing above the waist line except a slight covering for her beautiful breasts. On board this ship one does not have to go to a show for men only to see the feminine form divine--Thanks be. The moonlight on the sea tonight was lovely. My two companions and I spent several hours discussing the London International Wheat agreement and the measures taken by the various governments to comply with their obligations under the agreement to reduce production and stocks so as to reduce burdensome carryovers and restore trading to a normal sipply and demand basis.

"Friday and Saturday were also lovely days with the same routine, sleep, eat, bathe, study, and play. On no other boat have I seen entertainment so well organized. Every one is left free to take part or refrain as they please. Friday the principal entertainment was horse racing. Six dummy wooden horses and a diminutive race course are provided. Each horse has a number. As played on this boat there are really two games involved. First each horse is auctioned off. The bidding was lively and prices went up to over four

dollars each. Then tickets bearing numbers were sold for twenty-five cents each. The owners of the horses threw dice to determine the position and progress of their horses, beginning with number one and ending with number six. As the result of the throw of the dice was announced a steward placed the corresponding horses on the places indicated, the little track being marked off into compartments. Thus if the owner of horse number 3 turned up a dice with five spots, number three horse was moved down the line five places. Obviously it is a game of pure chance and many times was quite exciting. The owner of the winning horse received the contributions of those who had bid in the horses, and those who held tickets with the number of the winner on them received a pro-rata share of the twenty-five cent contributions. The horse winner took in about fifteen to twenty dollars, and each ticket holder got about $1.25 for his share.

"Then there was the game of keno, played with checkerboard cards with numbers, for which the holder paid twenty-five cents, and numbered beans drawn from a bag.

"Last night was dance night. The principal dance was the Paul Jones, somewhat like an old country dance where the ladies stood in line opposite a corresponding line of men, chose partners, evoluted, changed partners, and similar maneuvers, all to the tune of Turkey in the Straw and other lively old fashioned tunes.

"Last night all the passengers were dressed in costume and had a grand parade with prizes. Some of the costumes were very pretty and others simply ludicrous. I had no costume, but at the suggestion of one of the ladies I wore my Tuxedo suit with coat turned backwards, collar and tie likewise, with a mask over the back of my head so that, like Janus, I seemed to face both ways, and by walking backwards presented a sufficiently ludicrous appearance. The black coat and reversed collar in front made me look so much like a clergyman that

I was asked to precede a group dressed to represent a bridal party. Afterwards I learned that some of the passengers had thought all along that I was a preacher. I asked one of them why and she said it was because I was always so preoccupied and serious and had not broken loose and cavorted about as did so many other men of my apparent age. I suspect, however, it was because of the rather stern set of my countenance that I inherited from my puritanical preacher ancestors, for which I can never forgive them.

"After the costume parade there was dancing on deck and much drinking in the smoking room. There was much hilarity and three or four beautifully formed young women in abbreviated bathing costumes afforded much amusement and entertainment for the men who paid for their drinks. The orchestra retired at midnight and a lone musician began playing on a banjo and a mouth organ to the accompaniment of which was much fantastic dancing, especially by some of the older members of the party. Some of the men who participated were old, baldheaded and paunchy, and one of the elderly ladies was quite obese. They danced with great abandon and such grace and awkwardness as they could, singing, shouting, and laughing like a lot of care free children, while the three bathing beauties displayed their charms to the best advantage. At one a.m. the lone musician retired and to my surprise one of my solemn companions, a high official in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, took his placed at the piano on the after deck and pounded out modern music for nearly two hours, while the dancing and jollification continued. The party broke up at 3 a.m.

"Today, Sunday, was beautiful and pleasant and passed like other days. There was the usual music, dancing, games, and drinking. The supply of gin gave out before noon and a group calling themselves the 'Gin Fiz Club' were full of glee when told that they had consumed more gin in the eight days of this trip so far than any passen_

ger list the ship had carried on the eighteen day run between New York and Buenos Aires. One lively member of the group obtained two yards of crape from the steward and hung it on the wall over a placard bearing the legend 'Gin is All,' and when critized for his phrasing exculpated himself by saying that he had lived among the Pennsylvania Dutch and had picked up the expression from them.

"We will cross the Equator tomorrow and this evening at 9 o'clock the passengers were summoned to the foredeck to witness the coming of Neptune's messenger. He was a big man dressed in imitation seaweed, long gray hair, and bore a trident. He announced in a bellowing voice that inasmuch as we were venturing to invade the domain of Father Neptune we would be called to give an account of ourselves on crossing the Line, and therefore we must 'Beware, beware, beware.' After this announcement he disappeared in the darkness.

"At sunset the sky was lit up with gorgeous colorings and along the horizon was a bank of clouds that looked like mountains.

"I have made the acquaintance of some very interesting people, among them a lady who knew David Lubin, founder of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, and his family quite intimately. Among the men I have met two directly concerned with agriculture, one with the American Corn Products Company with headquarters in Brazil, and the other with the Case Company with headquarters in Argentina, both exceptionally well informed.

"Monday, July 30. Cloudy, with an agitated sea for the first time on the voyage, causing considerable motion in the ship. Sometime early this morning we crossed the Equator.

"Ceremonies celebrating this event and inducting neophytes into the realm of King Neptune were held on the after deck in the afternoon. Fortunately only those who expressed a willingness to participate were called upon to take part in the performance. It opened

with a grand march of Neptune and his courtiers and guards. They then took their stations on a stage constructed on the after deck. I forgot to mention that a placard was hung up in the lounge and read by all in the morning, as follows:

"Know ye by these presents That on the 30th day of July, 1934, the heiser-brothers of the deep do come to the surface from the bottom of the Sea to baptize and initiate into the sacred Order of Neptune, all ye Land-lubbers and Tin-horns who have never crossed the Line before.

"Be it known that they will be officially lathered and shaved with various mixtures of slumgullion so that no Sharks, Whales, Crabs, Crawfish, Jellyfish, Pollywogs, or Sea-cooties will ever harm them. Each is entitled to enter 'Davy Jones' Locker,' and feed the Sea-wumps, milk the Sea-cows, and ride the Sea-horses, but Never, never will be allowed to flirt with or gambol with the Sea Mermaids. They will then be allowed to enter the palace of old Neptune, but never in the form of a Swort Fish or Octopus. Beware.

"Neptune Rex."

"After Neptune and his court were assembled the neophytes were called and the guards, dressed in bathing suits, with painted faces and carrying ugly looking clubs and knotted ropes, brought them before Neptune. The court crier read an accusation applicable to each, while the victim kneeled before the desk of Neptune with hands on the desk as an electric shock was sent through him. Neptune would then ordain the punishment. A few elderly ladies were let off with solemn promises to behave themselves. The men and younger women were first led to the operating table of Dr. I. Hurtem, laid on their backs, had their mouths washed with soapsuds, colored liquids squirted over them, and a piece of ice thrust under their bathing suits. Next they were carried struggling across the stage and deposited and held down

forcibly on a pile of sacks while four or five men rubbed cooked vermicelli in which raw eggs had been broken over their bodies, faces,and in their hair. When they emerged from this ordeal both they and the stage were a disgusting sight, covered with slippery vermicelli, egg, and red ink--quite like a slaughter pen or a pig stye. Lastly they were taken and thrown into the swimming tank. At first the spectators thought it great fun and laughed heartily, but as the sport became rougher and more brutal and disgusting they became silent, and many of them, including myself, became very indignant. When most of the neophytes had been subjected to this treatment, one of them, a big, husky man, leaped upon the stage when his name was called and before the guards could stop him ran to the desk in front of Neptune, overturned it, and did the same with the other trappings, and although six other men tried to overpower him and there was a lively scrimmage he succeeded in breaking up the brutal horseplay then and there. It took some deck hands nearly an hour to clean up the mess.

"Most of the passengers joined me in condemning this display of brutal horseplay, the manhandling of women and dignified men, and the messing up of persons, deck, and furniture. It was a most disagreeable spectacle and an offence to all decent people. Several passengers who had traveled widely said that in all their experience in crossing the Line nothing quite so brutal, disgusting, or disgraceful had been seen. It has made a most unfavorable impression upon most of the passengers.

"In the evening a dinner was staged in honor of an American Coffee Delegation to Brazil, but it was a quiet affair, most of the passengers being in a rather serious mood after their experience of the afternoon. The dining room was decorated with Japanese lanterns, and at each plate was a paper cap, a little horn or rattle, and several toy balloons.

"The supper was followed by motion pictures on the after deck. Then came dancing on deck and card playing and drinking in the smoking room. After the bar closed at midnight I took several turns on the deserted deck and watched the clouds move slowly over the moon and change the position of the area of moonlight on the leaping waters. I was tired and started for my cabin, but stopped in the lounge to hear some music. A small man was playing a guitar and a mouth organ at the same time. He seemed to have an unlimited repertoire and apparently could play anything that was suggested by title, words, or air. He played in succession almost all the pieces familiar in America and followed with the folk music of Ireland, Scotland, England, and some of the Scandinavian and Italian pieces. It was a very agreeable entertainment and lasted until nearly three a.m.

"Tuesday, July 31. I did not get up until about 11 a.m. It had rained during the night and today was showery. After all the excitement of yesterday the passengers were very quiet. Late in the afternoon we sighted the coast of Brazil and in the early evening we caught sight of the lights of Pernambuco. This evening horse racing games were on again. Somehow I cannot become reconciled to the fact that so many people on board have money to gamble with and spend freely without thought, when times are so hard at home and money so scarce.

"Wednesday, August 1. Smooth sea, but cloudy. At noon we were still 800 miles from Rio, which means that we will not enter that beautiful harbor until afternoon of Friday. This will disappoint many passengers who expected to have a whole day for sightseeing. The event of the day was the captain's dinner this evening, with the usual decorations, music, dancing, and noise. Also there was the awarding of prizes for the various games. At the dinner all the men were in full dress and the ladies in evening gowns, quite in contrast to the bathing

suits in which they had been going about. Although there has been steady drinking on board I have not seen a single individual who was inebriated.

"Tomorrow will be the last day for getting mail off from Rio, so that this will have to be the last instalment of my diary until I reach Buenos Aires, one week from today.

"I am hoping that all is well with you and the Sunny Hillers. By the way, I learned this evening that the members of the orchestra on the ship receive $25 and their meals for a round trip of five or six weeks. It is not much, but I suppose it is better than unemployment back home.

Love to all,

Lee.

Thursday, 2 Aug.; at sea; clear and bright with a cool breeze a and a rippling blue sea. So cool that I exchanged summer for a fall suit. Although I did not get to bed until 4.30 a.m. I was up at 7.30. Took a swim and found the water rather cold. Talked awhile with Mr.Doyle of Uruguay. Saw a beautiful British steamer on its way to Europe.

At 11 a.m. I went with a party down to the engine room. We had to descend three flights of steep iron steps below the main deck. It was intolerably hot unless one stood under a ventilator. The engine room was full of levers, cranks, and dials, and very few attendants were needed to look after them because oil was used as fuel and it was fed and regulated almost automatically. We walked back along one of the great propellor shafts which was of solid polished steel and about sixteen inches in diameter.

From the engine room we were conducted into the cold storage vaults for fruit, vegetables, and meats. Then into the laundry which was equipped with every modern convenience. Next into the bake shop with electric ovens, and the kitchen with automatic dishwashing machines.

It was a great relief to get into the open air again. I changed a twenty dollar bill with the purser, got some stamps, and mailed some letters.

After luncheon I tried to take a nap but was disturbed by some children playing horse and wild Indian in the corridor. I opened the door at an opportune moment and caught the wild Indian and so put the fear of man in his little heart that there was a profound silence thereafter.

Had another long talk with Mr.Doyle. He said he was from Colorado; that he had a cattle ranch and was doing well when he lost everything in the severe winter of ~~1911~~ 1911; then he bought a farm in

Kansas and again lost everything because of the severe winter; then he came to Uruguay in charge of a shipment of 162 purebred cattle in 1919; and next he transferred to the Nelson Co. and then to Armour's; that he could retire in five years at two-thirds of his salary, the government paying eight per cent and compelling the company to pay ninety-two per cent. He said he had been getting better than five thousand dollars a year all through the depression, plus a trip to the United States occasionally.

(Mother, 2 Aug.,brown folder) Forward through p.4947

Friday, 3 Aug,Rio; clear and bright, with some haze. Up and had breakfast at 8 a.m. We were in sight of the mountains near Rio de Janeiro. We entered the harbour about 10 a.m. Always it is a beautiful sight--the broad almost land locked harbor, Sugar Loaf, Corcovado Mountain, Copablanco, the fortifications on the promontories about the harbor entrance and the little island in the harbor, the shipping, the crescent city and buildings and palm groves extending up the slopes--all interesting and beautiful. I noted several new buildings that had been erected since my last visit in 1928. Many ships were in the harbor. Three speed launches circled about the ship. A large tugboat decorated with flags came took off the American coffee delegation.

We reached the wharf a little after noon, had a luncheon of chicken sandwiches and coffee, and then went ashore. We/Ø Mr.Theis and I joined a party and were driven through the city, along the beaches, and up the mountains, with superb views of verdure clad mountains, tropical jungle, and the sea, and long lines of white surf We were out three and a half hours and went about twenty miles an hour. At one point we had a magnificent view of the city and harbor.

Upon our return to the city Mr.Theis and I stopped at the American Embassy and saw the Ambassador, Mr.Gibson, who was formerly stationed at Brussels. He was very cordial, probably because Mr. Theis had a letter of introduction from a mutual friend.

From the Embassy we walked several blocks down the Rio Branco to a money exchange and bought milreis at the rate of 144 for $10. Then we went to a branch postoffice where Mr.Theis sent a letter by air mail to his wife. ~~Then~~ We walked back to a sidewalk restaurant and had a drink and a smoke. While there at least eight of our fellow passengers greeted us.

Mr.Nyhus had spent the day with a cotton specialist and had

agreed to rejoin us at the Copocabana Hotel to which we went in a taxi. The hotel was a high class and very pretentious one with many flunkeys. We were dressed in outing clothes and felt much out of place in these elegant surroundings, and even more so when we discovered that the hotel was full of tourists from Argentina wearing evening clothes. We were kept waiting about an hour for Mr.Nyhus and when he at last came we announced that we preferred to dine in the city. He readily agreed to join us. None of us knew where to go. The taxi driver did not understand English so I asked him in Spanish with a Portuguese slant to take us to some place downtown for a good supper. He took us to a modest looking restaurant where we had an excellent supper, good wine, and the finest coffee we had ever tasted. The dining room was plain and we were the only foreigners, the other guests being Brazillians and Portuguese. There was an old fashioned and very ornate bar to one side. Mr.Nyhus became greatly excited when he saw a rat run from the bar to the kitchen in the rear. Also there were cockroa roaches on the walls. But the food was clean and well cooked and served by the proprietor himself.

The boat was to have sailed at 10 p.m. We started to walk to the wharf, but I was desperately tired and there was some doubt as to whether we could reach it before the time set for sailing ~~its departure~~ so we ~~Kakx~~ hailed a taxi. We arrived with five minutes to spare only to find that the time of sailing had been postponed until midnight. As the ship passed slowly across the great harbor and out into the ocean it was a beautiful sight to see the ~~strings of~~ lights strung out for miles along the crescent promenade ~~along~~ near the baach and hung in festoons up the slopes of the hills and mountains back of the city, and crowning all was the great statue of Christus at the top of Corcovado illuminated by electricity.

The whole day was an experience of changing brilliant scenes, light, bright, and colorfull, with a tropical sea and tropical landscape and vegetation on all sides. Again I was confirmed in my belief that the harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the most beautiful in all the world.

At 1.45 a.m. the lights of Copocabana were still visible low on the horizon.

From New York to Rio the voyage ha been one of the brightest and livliest I had ever experienced not only because the weather had been agreeable, the ship spacious and with good food and service, but because of a fairly full passenger list, including a socalled "American Coffee Committee" of about a dozen business men with their wives, out for a good time as guests of the Brazilian government, and because the sports and entertainments were organized by a professional, so that there was never a dull moment. Inasmuch as from this this day on the character of the passenger list changed from predominantly lighthearted Americans and north Europeans to the solemn, dignified and somewhat funereal Latins of Uruguay and Argentina, and the weather changed from north summer to south winter, it is fitting at this point to introduce the theme song that was sung with great glee and gusto by the passengers, both men and women, prior to reaching Rio.

Bell Bottom Trousers.

When I was a serving maid
Down in Drury Lane,
My master was so kind to me,
My mistress was the same,
When along came a sailor man
As happy as could be
And he was the cause of all my miserie.

(1034,Aug.at sea) E--4944

Singing Bell Bottom Trousers
and a Coat of Navy Blue,
And he'll climb the rigging
like his daddy used to do.
He asked me for a candle to light him to his bed,
He asked me for a handkerchief to tie about his head,
And I like a silly maid, thinking it no harm,
Jumped into the sailor's bed
To keep the sailor warm,
Singing Bell Bottom Trousers
and a coat of navy blue,
and he'll climb the rigging
like his daddy used to do.
Early in the morning at the break of day
A five pound note he gave me as
and this to me did say:
Take this my darling for the damage I have done,
For you may have a daughter or you may have a son,
And if you have a daughter
Bounce her on your knee;
And if you have a son
Send the bastard out to sea,
Wearing Bell Bottom Trousers
and a coat of navy blue,
And he'll climb the rigging
like his daddy used to do.

Saturday, 4 Aug., at sea; clear and pleasant with a smooth sea. I was up at 9 a.m. We were in sight of mountains. About noon we entered the harbor of Santos. We had luncheon and then the ship drew up alongside the wharf. There were very few ships in the harbor.

About 2 p.m. Messrs.Theis, Nyhus and I went ashore and after walking a short d$stance were overtaken by Mr.and Mrs.Caldwell who invited us to join them in their automobile. We stopped to inspect a fruit and vegetable market. It was an interesting place and had enormous quantities of fruits and vegetables and all sorts of groceries and meats for sale. There were immense piles of oranges and bananas that were very cheap. The oranges were fully ripe and delicious and all of us ate some.

Next we went to the postoffice and then to the Coffee Exchange, which was in a fine large building and on one of the walls of which was a very fine oil painting depicting the early settlement of Santos.

Then we were driven across the city to the beach. Just before reaching the beach we stopped to inspect a small but beautiful estate which specialized on orchids. There were many tropical plants and over two thousand varieties of orchids and some very fine specimens of the royal palm which were about eighty feet high and two or three feet in diameter and said to be only about thirty years old. Unfortunately it was the wrong season of the year to see the orchids in bloom, although there were a few delicate blossoms to be seen.

By this time it was getting dark and we were driven back to the business section and went to Leo's, a restaurant and bar famous in Brazil. There we were served with mint julips, a delicious dish of shrimps and rice, a tender beefsteak and fried potatoes, and several kinds of wine.

Returning to the ship I left some things in my cabin and went

up to the smoking room and joined Mrs.Caldwell, Mr.Theis, and one other at a little table. The lady was talking rather freely. It seemed that she had lost her only child and had recently undergone an operation and was extremely nervous and highstrung. Also she was very jealous of her husband, a fine, athletic, tall, red headed American of Scotch descent, who always reminded me of an ideal Scottish Chief. She was a small, beautiful, very intelligent and talented woman with a most interesting history. On this occasion her nerves were unstrung and she was on the verge of hysterics. Nothing any of us could say could sooth her and she left us shortly.

Then Bert, the little vaudeville commedian, came in looking rather forlorn. He had been in Leo's when our party and several other passengers were dining but no one invited him to join them. He took a seat opposite me when I greeted him. Said he had had nothing to eat since noon and was tired. I had heard that he was stranded and was on board entertaining passengers in return for passage to Buenos Aires where he hoped to get an engagement. So I invited him to join me in a plate of sandwiches and a bottle of beer. He ate all the sandwitches and drank a bottle of beer and at once became more cheerful.

Sunday, 5 Aug.at sea; a beautiful bright, sunshiny day, with ripling sea, and turning colder, especially in the evening. The ship left Santos sometime during the night. It was very quiet on board and I was very sleepy from sitting up so late the night before. After luncheon I had a nap that lasted until 6 p.m. Had a nice turkey supper. Treated the little commedian, Bert, to a bottle of beer and decided from his conversation that he was rather rattle-brained. Saw a large steamer on the horizon. Went to my cabin at 9 p.m. Steward put an extra blanket on the bed.

Monday, 6 Aug.; at sea; a beautiful day, but colder, and a running sea. Had to put on heavier underwear. About like November in the United States. Had a long talk with Messrs.Reynard of the J.I.Case Company, Mr.Caldwell of an oil company, both in Buenos Aires, and Mr.Doyle of Armour's at Montevideo, and a Mr. Moos, a German, representing a mercantile company, about the situation in Argentina. All said their salariss had been reduced but about the same time Argentine currency had depreciated so that it made little difference to them. They were full of reminisences that were interesting to me because I had been in both Argentina and Uruguay and had a background of memories of my own.

In the afternoon I did some typewriting. In the evening our party joined that of Mr.and Mrs.Caldwell and Messrs.Moos and Reynard at a steak and vegetable supper. Mr.Caldwell had two large bottles of wine sent in. After supper we had a liquer together in the smoking room. Then we adjourned to the social lounge and several took turns at the piano. I left them at midnight.

Tuesday, 7 Aug.Montevideo; cloudy, drizzling, and very cold. I had a shower bath and did not like it. Then breakfast and a smoke. Began to pack up. We approached the harbor of Montevideo a little before noon. It was cloudy, dark, and raining. Several comparatively new buildings stood out prominently. Among them were a new customhouse and a new bank building.

After luncheon on the ship Messrs.Theis, Nyhus, and I, together with Mrs.Caldwell and Miss Lynn, stepped ashore, took a taxi and went first to a Cambio to change some of our money for that of Uruguay. Then we were driven through the city and along the beach drive, admiring the beach and the florid architecture, for a considerable distance out and then back by another route which took us through a magnificent grove of eucalyptus trees and city streets

to the Hotel Parque where we stopped and had some whiskeys and sodas. We needed them because we were all chilled. The bar restaurant was an elegant chamber with mahogany trimmings. It was poorly lighted and and heated by a steam radiator of only three ~~bars~~ sections or tubes, which would have been inadequate to heat a closet, to say nothing of a chamber forty feet long and thirty feet high. In the circumstances nothing but a stiff dose of whiskey could give the illusion of warmth and cheer.

We were taken to the Grand Hotel where I had spent several days in 1928. There we had some more whiskey and soda, after which we walked about the public square and bought some Uruguayan money and postcards. Returning to the hotel we had an excellent supper and some good wine.

At the steamer I was surprised to meet Dr.Henry whom I had known in Buenos Aires in 1923-4 and had last met at Alexandria in 1927. He was with Mr.and Mrs.Haloran from Boston. We adjourned to the smoking room and all had a whiskey and soda.and sat and talked until 1.30 a.m. It was a very pleasant evening we spent together but I was very tired. The ship was to have sailed at 11 p.m. but was still at the wharf at 2 a.m. when I retired.

Wednesday, 8 Aug. Rio de la Plata;foggy and showers and disagreeably cold. I awoke at 8 a.m. and the ship was standing still which made me think that we had arrived at Buenos Aires. Dressed rather hurriedly and went on deck and found that the ship had left Montevideo and got stuck in a mud bank in the great river. It soon got under way again. The river was under a heavy fog and the ship proceeded slowly.

Finished writing an account of the voyage for mother's benefit and mailed it on the ship. Also finished packing up.

Insert 4947-9-X

~~I was introduced to a big pompous gentleman who got on at Santos.~~

S.S.American Legion,
At sea, August 2-6, 1934.

"Dear Mother:

"My previous letter describing the voyage to yesterday noon was mailed last night to catch the boat at Rio de Janeiro, where we expect to arrive tomorrow.

"Last evening I went up to the smoking room and found it full of passengers, drinking, smoking, playing cards, laughing and talking and evidently enjoying themselves. Also there was music by the orchestra and dancing. This continued to midnight when the bar closed and many left for their staterooms. Then the vaudeville performer whom I have mentioned came on with his banjo and mouth organ and played many lively airs to which there was some fantastic dancing. I sat off to one side with a book when a jovial gentleman from New Orleans waltzed up to me and pulled me up to join him. On the impulse of the moment I did so and we waltzed down the room and back. Then a lady joined us, and another, a gentleman, and another lady, and the dance turned into a kind of ring-around-a-rosy. After that there was more dancing and hilarity until after one a.m., when others left for their cabins, leaving only the musical performer and seven men who were singing hilariously. At their invitation I joined them, because I wanted to see how long the party would last and what the men would do. As a matter of fact they drank whiskey, smoked and sang, and while none of them got drunk they were all a little tipsy, just enough to make them act like a lot of school boys. Their singing was so excruciatingly bad that it was funny, and it got worse as the night progressed. But how they beamed into each other's faces as if they were long lost brothers. Toward the last they reminded me of a pack of dogs sitting about in a circle and howling at the moon. The songfest lasted until 4.15 a.m. I was neither sleepy nor tired and had sat through it simply because it was so ridiculous and because I was

quite sure that I never again would have such an opportunity to see a similar performance. (These men were middle aged fathers of families and solid business men in a state of complete irresponsibility and relaxation).

"Today, Thursday, the sun rose bright and clear and the day has been beautiful. At noon we still had 407 miles to go to reach Rio. Just before noon I went with a party on a tour of inspection of the engine room, refrigeration chambers, laundry, electric ovens, and dining room. From the lowest deck we descended three flights of iron stairs to the engine room. It was full of complicated machinery, dials and levers, and was excessively hot. Fuel oil is used and it takes 3,000 barrels to keep the firss going from Trinidad to New York, down to Buenos Aires, and back to Trinidad before refueling. We were far down below the water line and it was not a comfortable feeling. There were three refrigeration chambers, one each for fruits, vegetables, and meats. The laundry was quite as complete as any city laundry. The big electric ovens were like a battery of ordinary electric units, each with automatic devices for regulating heat and length of baking. The great kitchen was a model of convenience and cleanliness. From the kitchen one stepped into the great dining room that extends across the width of the ship and looks as if it might be over sixty feet square.

"Early this morning I had my last swim in the tank, which was removed at noon. The atmosphere was much cooler to day than any previous day on the voyage and the men changed from linen to heavier clothing, although it is still warm enough to be pleasant.

"Saturday, August 3. A bright sunny day, rather hazy, and cool enough for medium weight clothing. There had been much speculation among the passengers as to when the ship would dock at Rio and how much time would be available for sightseeing. After breakfast I went

on deck and saw that we were close in to the mountains. In a short time these began to look familiar and I saw that we were heading into the mouth of the harbor. There were the forts on the hillsides, old Sugar Loaf 2,000 feet above the harbor on one side, and Corcovado much higher beyond, the little island in the middle of the harbor, the great city beyond, Nictheroy to the right, and a background of mountains dimly seen through the morning mists. I could see that many tall buildings had been constructed since my last visit in 1928. The ship actually docked at noon and many passengers left.

"After a luncheon of cold chicken sandwiches and coffee our party of three joined a touring party of sixteen. In automobiles we were taken up the Avenida Rio Branco through the business section to the Palacio Munroe, on out by the Hotel Gloria, around the Avenida Flamenco, past the fine botanical garden, one of the best in the world, and then up the coast for a considerable distance through the mountains over a splendid road. A few miles out we stopped at a restaurant and bar. It was new, neat, spick and span clean, halfway up the b slope of a mountain and from the veranda we had a wonderful view of the blue sea, the semicircular beach, the white surf that came rolling in regular succession up the beach, and on the landward side the magnificent tropical verdure that clothed the mountain almost to its summit. At another point we stopped to inspect some caves opening onto the beach and extending back into the mountain. At another point we stopped to look at a mountain gorge where enormous boulders as large as a house were piled one on another with passages underneath and between and a dashing stream that came laughing down the mountain side and splashing with high glee into a dark recess to reappear again farther down. Then for many miles we were driven up into the mountains clothed with tropical trees, giant ferns, bamboo, vines like ropes hanging from branches

a hundred feet above the ground, all sorts of orchids and mosses, and such tropical plants as we see only in greenhouses. As this is midwinter only a few of the trees and orchids were in bloom, but the blossoms were very pretty. On the way back we stopped at a pavilion high up on the side of a mountain overlooking the city and harbor of Rio. It was a marvelous vision of beauty and fully justifies the calling of Rio a dream city. Nowhere else in the world is there such a combination of ocean, bay, ornamental city, crescent beaches, lofty mountains,tropical verdure, blue skies and bright sunshine. The temperature was just right for comfort, like a mild day in spring or autumn, neither too hot nor too cool, so that summer wear was comfortable. At another point we paused to look over the city and get a fine view of the gigantic statue of The Christus that has been erected on the topmost peak of Corcovado Mountain. It towers more than three thousand feet above the city and at night when brilliantly illuminated by electricity it is a most impressive sight.

"On returning to the city Mr.Theis and I called on the American Minister, Mr. Gibson, formerly of Belgium and prominent in negotiations at the League of Nations. He was very cordial. Then we walked down the Rio Branco and found a Cambio where we bought some Brazilian money, fifteen milreis for a dollar. Farther on we found a branch correo, postoffice, where Mr.Theis sent an airplane letter. Then we found a sidewalk restaurant and sat down to have a glass of Brazilian beer. While there many of the passengers from the American Legion recognized us and stopped to exchange greetings. It was dusk and the sidewalk was crowded with pedestrians walking in opposite directions. It was after business hours and many of the business houses on this main thorofare and all of them on the sidestreets were closed with metal shutters. Nowhere in Rio did we see cars

parked at the curb, which was a welcome sight. Rio Branco is broad and in the center is an open space in which the taxies are parked. The open space on either side is for one way traffic. There seemed to be no speed limit and some of the cars seemed to be making forty miles an hour. While we were sipping our beer a regiment of soldiers marched by. Evidently they had been on a long march and were very tired. The men were of all colors and very small.

"One of the men on the ship who lives in Montevideo told me of sitting in a restaurant in Rio when a fire broke out on the opposite side of the street. He said it was late and the metal curtain was pulled down to within three or four feet of the sidewalk. Bells clanged and whistles blew. Then came the noise of the approaching fire engines which stopped in front of the restaurant. Next came a line of firemen in their accoutrements under the metal curtain and into the restaurant. Promptly they lined up before the bar and each was given a bottle of beer which he proceeded to empty. It was only after their internal fires were quenched that they crawled out under the curtain and proceeded to combat the fire across the street.

"At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Theis and I took a taxie to Copocabana Hotel where we were to meet Mr.Nyhus, the newly appointed Agricultural Attache at Buenos Aires, for supper. He was not there and we had to wait. The hotel is a very pretentious and expensive one and we felt a little out of place without our dress suits. The longer we waited the less we liked it, so when Mr. Nyhus appeared we persuaded him to go with us to someplace down town. On the way I asked the driver to take us to a 'restaurante con bueno comida.' He took us off on a side street to a small restaurant that evidently did not cater to tourists. It was fairly clean and the few other guests spoke only Portuguese. We had prompt service, a great bowl of hot

fish chowder, a nice thick juicy steak and fried potatoes, bread and butter, fruit, coffee,and two bottles of Portuguese wine, for the equivalent of a dollar each. The place was well lighted and clean, although one could see cockroaches running about rather freely. One of my companions insisted that he heard mice squeaking behind the counter. His surmise proved to be correct because a little later we saw two mice dash from behind the bar across the dining room in the direction of the kitchen.

"After a very satisfactory meal we walked back to Rio Branco and up the street for a considerable distance, stopping en route to inspect some beautiful silver ware in a shop. Then we started to walk back to the steamer which was to sail at 10 p.m. sharp. Time passed and fearing we could not reach the steamer in time we took a taxie. As a matter of fact the steamer did not actually leave until nearly midnight. Nearly every one remained up to see the lights of Rio as we passed out of the harbor. It was a beautiful sight. The electric lights made almost a complete circle about the harbor, and up the mountain slopes back of the city were scattering lights of private houses that looked like stars. Above the mountains were the stars themselves and the blazing statue of the Christus. After we passed out to sea we could see the lights of Cococabana Beach. I stayed up on deck until after 2 a.m. to watch this display of lights until they gradually sank from view behind the horizon.

"Saturday, 3 August. The forenoon wasbright but hazy as we steamed over a rippling sea near the blue mountains to the west. It was cool enough to make clothes of medium weight comfortable. Shortly after noon the ship entered the long winding channel to the port of Santos where we docked about 1 p.m. After port formalities were over our party of three started to walk from the wharf to the Coffee Exchange on the other side of town. There was little activity at the

coffee warehouses along the wharf. We had walked only a few blocks when we were overtaken by friends in an automobile who stopped and insisted that we join them, which we did. We went first to the fruit and vegetable market that covers two city blocks. The market was bright with great piles of oranges, limes, tangerines, bananas of all shapes, sizes and colors, pineapples, papayas, small round tomatoes, potatoes, some of ordinary size and others no larger than a chestnut, all sorts of meats and fish, birds, and flowers. In the flower stands were roses, sweet peas, violets, carnations, tuberoses, English daisies, some enormous Shasta daisies, many ferns, and some flowers that were unfamiliar to us. Prices were very low. Fine oranges could be bought from five to eight cents a dozen.

"Next we stopped at the postoffice and a little farther on at the Coffee Exchange. The Exchange was closed for the day, but we were admitted to the building and saw the 'pit' where the trading takes place. It is a highly ornamental building inside, with an open space in the center covered with bright mosaics, surrounded by seats of carved dark wood within a railing, and a balcony above. To one side the wall was covered with a brightly colored oil painting representing the founding of Santos in 1535. It is an excellent painting and well worth seeing.

"Our next stop was at Leo's restaurant and bar. Leo's is an institution like Alfredo's in Rome. Here one can get the finest meals and drinks on the coast. Here also we found many of our fellow passengers. Most of us took mint juleps. It was my first and I liked it. It was served in a glass that had been chilled, was full of cracked ice, and topped with a sprig of mint. So cold was it that the glass was covered with frost outside.

"Next we drove through the city, out a few miles over a flat area almost to the great bathing beach. We stopped to inspect a

garden devoted to indigenous plants. This little estate had several acres of ground inclosed by a high wall, a beautiful residence in the center, a green lawn in front of it, an avenue of beautiful royal palms, and the rest of the grounds were laid out in walks and plantations of palms, bamboos,and other ornamental trees and shrubs on which were growing orchids and mosses. There were said to be more than 2,000 varieties of orchids. It was the wrong season for most of the orchids to bloom, but at least twenty varieties were in bloom. All the blossoms were delicate and some exquisite in form, color, and perfume.

"From the orchid farm we were driven to the Parque Hotel facing the beach, where we had a cocktail. One of the ladies picked up a baby lizard from the floor that was no more than an inch long. The hotel bar room was large and elegantly furnished and was well patronized.

"Then we were driven back to Leo's where we had a very satisfactory supper of shrimps, steak, potatoes and other vegetables, fruits, and several kinds of wine.

"Many of our passengers left the ship at Rio, and still more at Santos, so that when we returned the ship seemed very quiet. It was after midnight when the ship left and again I stayed up until 2 a.m. to see the lights of the harbor recede in the distance as we put out to sea.

"Sunday, August 4 was bright and clear with waves and whitecaps. The passengers left on the boat seemed to realize relax and most of them slept the day through.

"Monday, August 5, was another clear beautiful day. During the night it became quite cold. So cool was it in the morning that I put on heavier clothing and on deck wore my light weight overcoat and felt hat. During the afternoon I sat with a small group of Americans who have been in Buenos Aires and Montevideo for many years. They were

employes of American houses. One man with an oil company, one sold farm machinery, and another was with one of the packing companies. They had many interesting experiences to relate. Most of them had their salaries reduced after the depression began, but it seems that the money down here has depreciated in value more than our dollars so that it about offset the loss in salary. All seem to agree that they are fortunately situated in comparison with their colleagues back home and that opportunities for making money are better than in the United States. Tomorrow we will reach Montevideo.

"Before supper a party of eight of the original passengers sat together in the smoking room, had cocktails, and reviewed the voyage. Then we adjourned to the dining room and had supper together. Some one produced a large boquet of roses and these were divided. I was elected captain and sat at the head of the table with a pretty lady on either side. There was music by the orchestra and our two ladies danced with the gentlemen between courses. We had a nice steak dinner with trimmings, which included champagne. Then another session in the smoking room, followed by music and dancing in the lounge. This is really our last night together because so many are getting off at Montevideo. I left the party at midnight, still taking turns at piano and dancing.

"Tuesday, August 6, was a day of gloom, clouds, rain, and cold. We could see very little of Montevideo as we entered the harbor. A small party hired a taxie and were driven through the streets and out along the beach for some miles, but we could see little because of the rain and were very uncomfortable because of the cold. We stopped at the Parque Hotel near one of the beaches and had something to drink, which helped cheer us up. We had a nice supper at the Grand Hotel where I had stopped in 1928. In the restaurant I was surprised to be greeted by an old friend, Dr. Henry, of Buenos Aires, whom I had seen

last at Alexandria, Egypt. He came aboard the ship and we sat up until after midnight with a few others, including the owner of a line of freighters running out of Boston, and they had much to say about the difficulties Americans experienced in doing business in these South American countries.

"Wednesday. We had expected to reach Buenos Aires this morning. Instead the ship is only a short distance fó from Montevideo. Because of the heavy fog and low water in the Rio de la Plata which causes the boat to slide over mud banks we do not expect to reach B.A. before this evening. I will close this letter to insure that it is mailed promptly. It has been a long, smooth, and pleasant voyage.

"Love to all from

Lee.

I was introduced to a big pompous gentleman who got on at Santos. He said his name was Caile, was from Baltimore, and was born in Frederick, and with him was an elderly woman named Cunningham. He had traveled extensively and did not conceal that fact to such an extent that he was a profound bore and was shunned by all.

Had luncheon and on behalf of Messrs.Theis, Nyhus, and myself gave the table steward twenty dollars, both my companions being without money. I also loaned them eighteen and ten dollars respectively until they could cash checks at Buenos Aires. The purser said he was completely out of change which made it difficult for passengers to settle their accounts.

It was a cold gloomy day. Everyone had packed up and had nothing to do. We sat around for hours in gloomy silence. Nothing could be seen outside, even as we approached Buenos Aires. The bar was closed most of the time to give the stewards a chance to settle their accounts.

We docked about 6 p.m.Mr.Leudkte, our Agricultural Commissioner, and Mr.Satterthwaite of the American Embassy, were there to meet us. They took our passports and had our baggage stamped and approved without examination. Then we were driven to the New City Hotel where we were given nice rooms on the 11th floor. Our baggage followed ~~us~~ soon afterwards. At 7.30 p.m. we were interviewed by two newspaper correspondents who were persistent in their questioning and we were equally persistent in giving answers expressing good will without saying anything.

Mr.Theis left in company with an old Kansas City friend. Mr.Leudkte took Mr.Nyhus and I to a German restaurant, the Juston, where we had a delicious steak supper, excellent wine, and good music. It was very cheerful and Mr.Nyhus was delighted with it as a sample of his future as Agricultural Attache in Argentina.

Thursday, 9 Aug.B.A.;cloudy and cool. Slept well on a soft feather bed. Went down to the reception room at 8 a.m. and was soon joined by Messrs.Theis and Nyhus. While waiting for them I was greeted by a Mr.Tierney whom I vaguely remembered to have met at the American Club in Buenos Aires years ago and who was on the same steamer with me from Valparaiso to Callao in 1928.

After breakfast our party walked to the Munson Line office on the Avenida de Mayo for mail and then to the Boston Bank Building in which were the offices of the U.S.Department of Agriculture which would be our headquarters while in Argentina. The morning newspapers all had notices of our arrival in which we were dubbed the "Wheat Commission,"but they had our names confused and I was listed as the newly appointed agricultural attache and Mr.Nyhus as the expert who had reorganized the Direccion de Economia Rural y Estadistica. I had left my dark suit at the hotel to be pressed and went back at 11 a.m. to change.

A few minutes later we were driven to the Chancery of the American Embassy and met the Ambassador, Mr. Weddell, the first and third secretaries, the military attache, and several other attaches. The Ambassador was a large and rather pompous man from Richmond, Virginia. He said he had not attempted to discuss the wheat agreement with the Minister of Agriculture because he knew so little about it but he understood the ministry claimed that under certain clauses of the agreement Argentina was not bound by it either as to reduction of acreage or export quotas. He agreed to arrange for an interview with the Minister of Agriculture the afternoon of tomorrow.

Then we were driven back to the Boston Bank Building and Mr. Theis and I were given a desk and chair in a large vacant room. After discussing some Argentine statistics we went down to the bank on the ground floor where we bought some Argentine money and Mr.

Theis repaid the money he had borrowed from me (92 pesos for $25). Then we walked to the American Club in the New York City Bank building. The new quarters of the club were much more commodious and comfortable than those I remembered and included a large lounging room, dining room, bar, library, and rooms and baths for guests. We had an excellent luncheon and met a number of Americans some of whom remembered me. We had a short talk with Mr.Welsh of the International Harvester Company.

After returning to our offices we called on Mr.Warren, the American Consul. He had seen service in Haiti, Nairobi, East Africa, and Karachi, India, and came to Buenos Aires a few years ago. He was intelligent, quick witted, and well informed. He said that the government had done little if anything to restrict wheat acreage and had no legal authority to do so; that the weather had turned favorable and wheat production was much greater than had been expected; that the country lacked storage space for the large surplus and there had been no effort to keep within the export quota; that the policy of the government to buy wheat at a fixed minimum price and reimbursing itself from profits on foreign exchange had proved a great success, partly because the export price of wheat had risen above the minimum guaranteed price so that the government had made a profit on the wheat as well as on the exchange; for all of which reasons business had improved, people were optimistic, and everybody in Argentina to the last man was against the London Wheat Agreement. This was an accurate summary of the situation and all that we learned later simply confirmed it, without a single adverse opinion. It also confirmed our prior feeling that we could accomplish nothing in Argentina other than to ascertain at first hand what the situation actually was and report the facts to our headquarters in Washington.

Mr.Warren said that the exchnge operations of the government were mainly with the three principal exporting firms, Bunge & Born, Dreyfus, and Ritter, but that they were a close corporation, profited greatly, and there was the utmost secrecy about their operations. He said that a young economist, a Mr.Prebisch, of the Banco Nacional, was acting as a sort of brain trust for the government and was a very bright young man. He spoke very highly of Mr.Brebpia, the Under Secretary of Agriculture.

Next we called at the office of the U.S.Commercial Attache, Dr. Dye, but he was in Washington at the time. We talked with his assistant, Mr.Smith, son of a grain dealer in Ft.Worth whom Mr. Theis had known quite well.

It was 6 p.m. when we left the office and all were rather tired. We ~~sax~~ walked to the hotel and separated at 7 p.m. After going to my room and washing up I walked a few squares and found some cheap cigars and a shop that sold liquors where I bought a bottle of Hennessy cognac for ten pesos. I had barely reached my room when a reporter from the Standard ask~~ing~~ed for an interview and I referred him to Mr.Theis who had shown a ~~liking~~ desire to act as spokesman for the wheat commission. Shortly afterward the reporter called up a second time to say that Mr.Theis was taking a bath and could not see him, so I said he might come up to my room. When he began to ply me with questions as to what conclusions we had reached I laughed at him and pointed out the utter absurdity of expecting officials to reach conclusions about anything the first day of their arrival in a foreign country and the even greater absurdity of expecting them to say anything on the subject of their official mission before they had a chance to investigate. I suggested that he might say something about the past experience of my colleagues and that we were greatly impressed with the size, beauty, and modernness of Buenos Aires.

We then talked about various subjects, especially countries that he had visited, until after 8 o'clock.

After the interviewer left Messrs.Theis, Nyhus and I walked about three-quarters of a mile to the German restaurant, ~~The Kuston~~ Juston, where we had a good steak supper, wine, and excellent music. Through all the years since 1923-24 I had remembered the deliciously tender, juicy steaks of Argentina and had spoken to my companions about them. We were not disappointed this time and they were equally enthusiastic about them. After supper we ~~talk~~ took a long walk to the theater district and back. It was 11 p.m. when I reached my room. It had been a long busy day, I had no chance to write to my people, and I was desperately tired.

Friday, 10 Aug.,B.A.; clearing off bright, clear, and pleasant. Had breakfast with my colleagues and together we walked to the office about 10 a.m. Mr. Nyhus had an appointment at the Embasy I wrote a letter to wife and started an expense account.

Mr.Nyhus returned a little before 1 p.m. and said he had been taken by the Ambassador and introduced to the Minister of Foreign Affairs who had talked very frankly. ~~He said~~ The minister said he would like to have our group of agricultural experts tell the Argentine government (1) how to break the association of the government with the three grain export firms, Bunge & Born, Dreyfus, and De Ritter; (2) to provide more and better credit for the farmers; and (3) improve their system of propaganda. Our Ambassador expressed to Mr.Nyhus his great surprise that the Foreign Minister should speak so frankly about the failure of his government with respect to agriculture.

Now that Mr.Nyhus had been duly presented and we had seen our Ambassador we felt under obligation to follow our instructions from Mr.Wells of the State Department to work only through the American Embassy, which meant that we could not feel free to see any

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one about our mission until the Ambassador kept his promise to arrange a meeting with the Argentine Minister of Agriculture,which was to have been this afternoon. Had it not been for the feeling that I was officially tied up with Messrs.Theis and Nyhus and that the group was tied up with the American Ambassador I would have been free to act alone and could easily have done in three days about all that the group accomplished in three or more weeks. I would have spent my first day in Buenos Aires by getting oriented. In an hour with the American Consul, the Commercial Attache, and the Agricultural Commissioner I would have had all the information I needed before approaching the Ministry of Agriculture. The second day I would have gone directly to the Ministry of Agriculture, unannounced, and visited with my old friends. These would have included Mr.Brebbia who in a few minutes would have given me all the information I needed and more than was obtainable in any other way. After my talk with him he would have taken me in to meet the Minister who would have confirmed what Mr.Brebbia had told me. It would all have been friendly and concluded within a few hours and I could have returned on the American Legion, saved more than a month of time and expense, and in all probability have avoided a serious illness. This feeling of futility and being tied up with others was exasperating and the feeling deepened as time went on.

Our group took luncheon at the hotel grill. Yesterday Mr. Roosevelt monetized silver with the result that exchange in Buenos Aires droped from 368 to 350 pesos per $100, so that by cashing a check for $50 today instead of yesterday I lost nine pesos. After luncheon we walked back to the office. There I finished writing up my expense account for July. A man from the Ministry of Agriculture called to inquire about me. He said he came directly from Dr.Urien, that my friends in the Ministry held me very dear and all wanted to

meet me again. I thanked him, sent my best regards to my friends, and explained that I was with a diplomatic mission and as soon as I was free I would call to see them.

Then the ~~four~~ four of us, because now Mr.Leudkte, the Agricultural Commissioner, formed one of the socalled "Grain Commission" and really acted as our guide and interpreter, walked a long distance to visit printing shops. At one of them Mr.Theis and I ordered some business cards printed. Here we first came up against the finicky side of Mr.Nyhus. He spent more than half an hour critically examining qualities of paper and styles of printing without coming to any conclusion. It was 5.30 p.m.and dark when we returned to the office.

Mr.Theis left to keep an appointment with some friends. Mr.Nyhus remained to go over some office matters with Mr.Leudkte. I made my escape, glad to be alone for awhile, and walked down alogg the old arcaded Cabildo and looked at the postcards and cheap wares on display. I returned by way of the Plaza de Mayo and stepped into the restaurant of the old Palace Hotel which had changed its name to Conte's where I had a Martini cocktail, some deliciously roasted Spanish peanuts, and read La Razon in which I saw an account of the continued drouth and heat of our Midwest.

At my room I laid down to relax, as I felt extremely tired, but the room was chilly. At 8 p.m. I went down to the reception room to meet Mr.Nyhus. He was there with Mr.and Mrs.Caldwell, Miss Lynn, and the purser of the American Legion. The party climbed into one large automobile and was driven to the bar of the Richmond ~~Hotel~~ Restaurant on Florida. It was a large place and so full of people that we had difficulty in getting a table. There we all had a round of cocktails and a smoke and felt very cheerful afterwards. Next we walked a few squares to a place fitted up like a steamship with stage,

orchestra, dance floor in the center, and a low balcony with tables on both sides. The cloak rooms and lavatories were in a subbasement where we went to deposit our coats and hats. My eyes were gladdened by the sight of at least a dozen beautiful women in evening gowns all of whom had the come-hither look. Later I observed that these women were attached to the restaurant as partners for all gentlemen who wished to dance with them.

We occupied a table on one of the low balconies and ordered a full dinner. It was rather poor and the service was most unsatisfactory. Mrs.Caldwell was much provoked and scolded the waiter roundly in fluent Spanish. I sat next to her and ordered wine. The orchestra played noisy tangoes and there was some halfhearted dancing. There were about sixteen good looking women in evening gowns who danced with whoever asked them. Most of the gentlemen were in evening clothes. It was a longdrawn out affair and rather tiresome. After midnight there were special acts by professional dancers. The first was by a female dancer who danced an undulating Spanish dance that was rather pretty. Then more of the tiresome tango, and then another special dance by a beautiful woman all in white. It was a sort of butterfly dance and when she flouted her fluffy skirts she disclosed a pair of very pretty legs in pink tights. At 1.30 a.m. Mr.Nyhus and I left with Mrs.Caldwell and returned to the hotel. I did not especially enjoy the evening's entertainment and became very tired but was glad I had seen it because it was new to me.

One drawback to being attached to others, as I was to Messrs. Theis and Nyhus, was lack of liberty. I did not feel free to lay out my time, go anywhere, or do anything, without the others. Perhaps this was partly due to the fact that I knew my way about in the city and could speak some Spanish, while neither of them did, so that I felt under some obligation to see them through.

Saturday, 11 Aug.,B.A.; cloudy and cold. I was still very sleepy when I went down to breakfast at 9 a.m. Had fruit, rolls, and coffee. The morning papers carried the United States crop report.

We sat around in the office for about three hours discussing exchange rates and their effect on the prices of wheat. All of us were impatient because no word had come from the Embassy regarding an appointment with the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr.Nyhus and I took Mr.Leudkte to the hotel for luncheon with us. From them I learned something of the uncertainty of the continuance of the foreign service of our department and how last year Mr.Ray was ordered to return to Washington on very short notice. After luncheon my two companions went out to Belgrano on a house hunting expedition.

I took advantage of the opportunity to get some needed rest and took a long nap after which I felt better. About dusk I took a walk along the Cabildo looking at the window displays and the faces of the peones and laborers out for their half holiday. There were many cheap drinking places with girl waitresses and music. I stepped into one for a glass of beer and to rest. I was at once joined by a pretty Argentine woman who was very amiable so long as I supplied her with small but inexpensive drinks but who objected strenuously to my leaving at the end of thirty minutes.

Returning to my room after my walk I laid down to rest. At 8 p.m. Mr.Nyhus returned and together we went to the Juston restaurant and had an enjoyable supper. We were back at the hotel by 9 p.m. and were joined by Mr.Leudkte and the three of us went to a picture show. It was a modern theater of medium size and very artistic coloring inside. There was a series of small features, a news reel, a German play that was good but too long, some comics, and an American film of the comic type, and other features. We had ar-

rived at 9.30 p.m. and left at 1.30 a.m. before the show was over. We walked a few squares to a large restaurant. It was very attractive with wide panels, marble columns, mirrors, electric lights, and little electric heaters on the walls and columns. We had drinks and smokes. The place was full of people. I had seen no place like it in any American city.

We returned to the hotel in a taxi. Mr.Nyhus was very enthusiastic about the city and all that he had seen; it was so entirely different from what he had seen in China where he had been stationed for four years, and quite different from Washington,D.C., which had been his headquarters since leaving China. Unquestionably life was more varied and cheerful outside the arid United States. Likewise there was less drunkenness and crime than in that arid country.

Sunday, 12 Aug.,B.A.; clear, bright, and cold. I retired last night very tired at 2 a.m. I was awakened at 9.30 a.m. by Mr.Nyhus who wanted me to go with him to a violin concert at the Theatre Colon given by Mischa Ermal. At the main entrance we were directed to go round the corner for tickets. We had been told by our hotel porter that it was not necessary to get tickets in advance but when we found the ticket office we were told that all space had been sold except balcony boxes, the cheapest of which was thirty pesos. We were disappointed and about to leave when I observed three or four people discussing the advisability of trying to form a party to share the cost of a box. I stepped up to them and asked if we might join them and they readily agreed. One of their number purchased a ticket for the box and the others reimbursed him. We climbed a long flight of steps and found the entrance to the box only to discover that the man who bought the ticket did not have it with him. He ~~returned~~ went back to the office and later returned with the

ticket. While he was away the rest of us stood about feeling and looking very dubious, because we were all strangers to each other and one of our number had our contributions to the cost of the ticket and each had the horrid suspicion that we might never see him again. However,when he returned and we were admitted to the box and were seated good humor prevailed. We occupied a box in the second or third balcony in an excellent position. There were six tiers of boxes in all. The boxes and seats were trimmed with red plush.

The performance by Ermal was marvelous. It was incredible that such music could come from so small an instrument as a violin, such volume, such sweet fairy music, that no matter how low and faint the tones penetrated to the farthest limits of the great auditorium as well as the hearts of all the listeners. The piano accompaniment was very good also. There was great enthusiasm and many encores. The performance lasted from 10 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. and for two hous and a half with scarcely a pause the air of the great theater throbbed with music such as ~~many~~ made many of the listeners alternately smile, mark time with their hands, or weep. Before the performance was over the members of our party introduced themselves to each other and we became acquainted. Besides Mr.Nyhus and myself there was a pretty little lady from Lima, a physician, a lawyer, and an engineer. All were obviously well educated and could discuss books and music and art and all had traveled. It was a very congenial little party that broke up and separated with mutual expressions of good will when the perfomance ended.

Mr.Nyhus and I walked to a restaurant and had a cocktail and then walked to the hotel and had luncheon in the dining room. I was tired from the long walk. At 3 p.m. I laid down and slept soundly until awakened by Mr.Nyhus at 7 p.m. He said that Mr.Cook, president of the Grain Exchange and a member of the government's

Grain Advisory and Control Committee, had called to greet me. I dressed hastily and went down to the reception room and had a cocktail with him. We had met years before and both remembered each other.He was very frank and outlined the government's intervention in fixing the price of wheat, buying all that was offerred, and covering any losses by its control of exchange, which it bought at a fixed price and sold at higher prices. Mr.Cook said that he personally fixed the price of wheat each morning, basing his decision on the reported world price of wheat.

After Mr.Cook left ~~Mrs.~~ Mr. Theis, who had joined us, Nyhus, and I went to the Richmond Bar and had a cocktail. Then we walked to the London Grill and had a satisfactory supper. It was 10.30 p.m. when we returned to our rooms.

In the same hotel several of our fellow passengers on the voyage down were stopping. Among them was Mrs.Elkins and her son Paul. We met Paul in the lobby and he advised us that the little commedian, Bert, had missed his ship, had been left stranded, and then had got an engagement in one of the theaters. ~~Not only that~~ He was making a hit with his Argentine audience, so that fortune was smiling on the little fellow who worked so hard to be entertaining. We were all pleased because we had heard that he had a wife and three children back back home and had been out of employment for many months.

Monday, 13 Aug.B.A.; clear, bright, and pleasant. Had breakfast after 9 a.m. and reached the office at 10 a.m. The Consul came in for a few minutes. He remarked that a member of one of the exporting firms was a close friend of the Minister of Finance and was understood to be profiting by that relationship, and that it was rumored ~~th~~ that many others also were profiting by reason of exchange control and operations.

At 11 a.m. we went to the Chancery and the Ambassador took

us to see the Minister of Agriculture. He first took Mr.Nyhus in and introduced him to Minister Duhau and then left. Then an usher opened the door, we were admitted, and Mr.Nyhus introduced us. Mr. Brebbia was present, as was also Mr.Prebisch. Both the last named had little to say. The Minister spoke fairly good English. Mr.Theis announced that he would speak for our group, to which I made no objection because that was not the time or place to decide such a question. I had assumed that I would do the talking at the Ministry partly because of my former service with it and friendly relations with the officials, especially with Mr.Brebbia, the Under Secretary, and partly because it had seemed to be understood in Washington that I had been selected to go to Argentina as the personal representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, and Mr.Theis had been detailed to accompany me as an afterthought at the last moment because of his technical knowledge and experience in marketing wheat. Messrs. Nyhus and Leudkte were with us simply as a matter of courtesy and because it was desirable that they should sit in with our discussions so that they could do any follow-up work after we left that might be necessary. However, Mr.Theis probably thought that because he outranked me in the present organization of the Department of Agriculture as chief of an important division, while I was serving for a temporary period only as Consulting Specialist, and because he knew more about the technique of marketing wheat than I did, that he should be the recognized head of our commission. The question of precedence be and responsibility should have been settled and clearly indicated before we left Washington but it was not. I had had no desire to assert myself or insist on taking the lead in these circumstances and, besides, I felt that this particular mission was a futile one and doomed to failure from the beginning--a feeling I never had with any other project with which I was connected--and therefore was the more willing

to remain in the background. This suited Mr.Theis to a T because he was not at all bashful, did not suffer from any inferiority complex, and unquestionably liked to talk.

On this occasion he proceeded to make a brief and very good statement of our object in coming to Argentina, which was to cooperate with them in any way possible. The Minister listened in silence and coldly. When Mr.Theis concluded there was an awkward silence. ~~The~~ Then the Minister said he appreciated the offer of cooperation and wanted to know what his department was expected to do. Either I or Mr.Brebbia suggested that he might appoint a committee to confer with us. After a moment's hesitation he said he would do so and we would be notified. Clearly the interview was over and there was nothing to do but say "Adios." As we were leaving I laid my hand on Mr.Brebbia's shoulder and asked him how he was--we had been together many times in Rome and had known each other for about ten years. Then I asked if we could not have luncheon together some day in the near future and talk over old times. He said he would be glad to but was very busy and would let me know when he was free.

After returning to the office we bought some more pesos and had luncheon at the London Grill. I tried "curried oysters" which were a great disappointment.

In the afternoon we visited the office of the International Harvester Company and had a very satisfactory interview with Mr. Welsh, the manager. He was very frank and said he thought the present administration had done remarkably well in protecting the interests of Argentina. He M showed us a newspaper article listing forty families that owned 6,000,000 hectares out of a total of 30,000,000 hectares of land in the Province of Buenos Ayres. He said there had been very little if any increase in the cultivated area in Argentina in recent years, but this year there was an

increase in the area of flax at the expense of maize and wheat. He said that in the year 1925 his firm sold over two thousand "combines," (combination harvester and thresher), so that farmers were now accustomed to threshing their grain as it was harvested and could sell it within twenty-four hours without waiting for weeks or months for a customs thresher as in the old days.

Returning to the office the three of us drafted a cable report to the Secretary of Agriculture and spent two or three hours agreeing on a single draft. It was surprising how many differences of opinion developed over the matter of phraseology when there was none regarding the essentials on which we were all agreed.Mr.Nyhus was especially pertinaceous in advocacy of his own phraseology and in imagining all sorts of misinterpretations. To me all this "chewing of the rag" was very tiresome and I took little part in the argument, simply listening and smoking, prepared to approve any text the other two might agree upon just so it expressed clearly the essentials.

While thus engaged a Mr.Turner, to whom Mr.Theis had a letter of introduction, called. He was a secret crop correspondent of Fields & Co. of Minneapolis and was looking for employment. He said that the wheat acreage of Argentina had remained practically unchanged for many years.

It was after 8 p.m. when we left the office and walked to Conte's. We had a delicious steak, two inches thick, juicy and tender, with equally delicious creamed potatoes, a bottle of wine each, and coffee, for about five pesos each, or about a dollar and thirty cents. The same could not have been obtained in the United States for two or three times that amount. It was 10.30 p.m. when we reached our rooms, which made a rather long day.

Tuesday, 14 Aug.;B.A.;fair and cool. I was up at 9 a.m.,

had breakfast and read the morning papers. They carried a notice of our visit to the Minister of Agriculture and the meeting of the Wheat Conference in London.

At 11 a.m. Messrs.Theis,Nyhus, Leudkte, and I walked to the Banco de la Nacion where we met Mr.Cook, who introduced us to some of the officials and explained more in detail how the wheat of the country was taken over by the government through 250 branch banks under the guaranteed price arrangement.

Then Mr.Cook took us to the "Bolsa" or grain exchange and explained its workings and introduced us to a number of officials and members.

Shortly before 1 o'clock we drove to the American Chancery and met the Ambassador and some of the assistants and attaches, and then drove out to the American Embassy in Palermo. It is in a palace built by a wealthy family and surrounded by beautiful grounds. It stands oposite the great rose garden in Palermo and not far from the exposition grounds and buildings so that there were parks on two sides. The building is of stone and inside is finished in white marble. There is a great staircase and a rotunda with white marble columns. The halls are very large and were decorated with hard woods and gold trimmings, furnished with rugs and gilt furniture, mirrors, paintings, and bookcases.

Luncheon was served in a great dining room and consisted of soup, salad, partridge, fruit, two kinds of wine, liquer, and followed in another room with coffee and cigars. The Ambassador was very friendly and talked familiarly about Virginia and Maryland. Before leaving he showed me a copy of a History of Richmond which he had written.

It was 3 p.m. when we returned to the office. After resting a bit we went down to the Bank of Boston on the lower floor and talked

with the bank's economist, Mr.MacGraith, who edits a small economic summary for the bank. He was very well informed, having been in the country many years, and said he remembered me. He said frankly he did not know why the Argentine delegates ever signed the London agreement because it was contrary to Argentina's history and policy and was most unpopular from the beginning. He could only account for it on the theory that the Minister of Agriculture at that time was a lawyer and politician who knew nothing of agriculture and probably favored it as a publicity stunt, and then died soon after the agreement was signed. His successor and everybody else condemned the agreement as something that would hurt Argentine business for which there was no justification because Argentina had not increased her wheat acreage and production materially and was not responsible for the piling up of a world surplus, and the business men and people of Argentina rightly believed that the United States, Canada, and Australia, who were responsible, should be the ones to curtail production until the surplus was worked off. He said the ~~the~~ collections of the bank were better than expected. He called attention to the fact that Argentina had paid interest on all its foreign obligations regularly and said that Great Britain appreciated the stability of Argentina much better than the United States.

We returned to the hotel at 6.99 p.m. At 7.30 p.m. I went down to the reception room and joined Messrs.Theis, Nyhus, Leudkte,Vice Consul Woolworth, and a Mr.Ringwalt of the Cargill Grain Company, and we were driven to the apartments of Mr.Leudtke. They were in a former Austrian Embassy buildings with palatial rooms. Mr.Leudkte explained that Austria could no longer support an estabishment in Buenos Aires and had removed its embassy to Rio de Janeiro, leaving an agent in charge who rented rooms. Mr.Leudkte had some expensive furniture and a fine collection of Argentine books. It was

very pleasant except the rooms were not properly heated and we were all shivering. Cocktails and cigars were served and after sitting about and talking for an hour or more we were shown into an ornate dining room where a good supper and excellent wine were served. Then we had liquers and cigars and did a lot more talking. Most of the talk was about the wheat situation and grain business in Argentina. Mr.Theis was especially keen on getting information about grain trade practices and profits becaue that sort of information fitted into his own business as a grain exporter in the United States and might come in very useful sometime. It was 2 a.m. when our party broke up.

Tomorrow was to be a fiesta day and I stipulated that I was to have the day to myself.

Wednesday, 15 Aug.,B.A.; clear and bright with a shower in the afternoon. I slept until 10 a.m. Had breakfast, walked around to the Plaza de Mayo, returned, went to bed, and slept until after 4 p.m Wrote some letters. At 8 p.m. Mr.Nyhus called and together we walked to the Juston restaurant and had an excellent supper, with wine, and good music. It was nearly midnight when we returned to our hotel.

(Wife, 15 Aug.,B.A., brown folder)

(Nice, 13 Aug., S.A.; brown folder)

4966--a

New City Hotel, Buenos Aires,

Wednesdy, 15 August 1934.

"Dear Wifey and all:

"We have been in Buenos Aires a whole week and so busy early and late that I have ~~é~~ had either no time or felt too tired to write. It is a little trying for me not to feel free to go about by myself, but instead to have two companions and to have to act largely through the American Embassy. Usually we get up at 8 a.m., read the papers, ~~have breakfast~~, have breakfast and go to the office, and then interview various people until after dark; and then supper and back to the hotel around 9 or 10 p.m. Several nights we went to a night club, a picture show, or a late restaurant, and did not get back to bed until 2 a.m. The result is I am pretty tired most of the time.

"Last Sunday forenoon we went to a violin recital at the Colon Theater by Mischa Erlman, or some such name, and it was the best I have ever heard.

"I have not had time to ascertain David Currier's address. He is living in the country and I had hoped he would look me up.

"Today is a holiday and last night I told my companions that I wanted the entire day. We got in at 2 a.m. and I slept right thru to 4 p.m. and feel better for it.

"There have been many changes for the better in Buenos Aires and I wish you could see it. We are planning to take a railway trip into the country next week and to leave B.A. on the Munson Line S.S. September 8, which will put us into New York September 26.

"I think of you more or less constantly, but do not worry much because of my confidence in your ability to look out for yourself in your own way. I am hoping all is well with you. With love to all from

Daddy.

Thursday, 16 Aug.,B.A.; cloudy and raining. Had an early telephone call from Mr.Brebbia asking me to come to his office at 3.30 p.m.to discuss the work of his department. At the office Miss Short, secretary to Mr.Nyhus, said there had been a telephone call late Tuesday saying that the employes of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Statistics wished to meet me at 3 p.m. today and would prefer to meet me at my hotel. I asked her to notify them that I would be glad to meet them at my hotel at 6 p.m. instead of 3 o'clock so as to avoid conflict with the appointment with Mr.Brebbia.

Received a cablegram from Secretary Wallace addressed to me giving certain statistical data that had been sent to all governments by the secretary of the London Wheat Committee. Also a second message asking if the Argentine government had set up any special organization for the purpose of regulating or controlling acreage and exports of wheat. I spent the forenoon with Messrs.Theis, Nyhus and Leudkte arguing about what steps the Argentine government had actually taken. I inferred that Messrs.Theis and Nyhus were a little hurt that Mr.Brebbia had asked that I come alone.

At 3 p.m. I saw Mr.Brebbia in his office alone and he was his old friendly self. With respect to the control of acreage he said it was accomplished through the Banco de la Nacion with more than two hundred branches making loans for seed maiz and flax and refusing loans for wheat; also he said there was an "insidious" campaign of propaganda against wheat sowing carried on through the regional agronomists and other federal employes, without much newspaper publicity, and that a reduction in the area sown of about six per cent had actually been obtained. With respect to control of exports he said the Junta Reguladore had been created with authority to purchase all

wheat tendered to the government at 5.75 pesos per quintal, and that to cover losses on wheat purchases the government by decree required that all exchange obtained by exporters should be turned over to it at a fixed price to be sold later at an advanced price, and he quoted figures to show total stocks of new and old wheat, quantity exported, and estimated quantity yet available for export.

When I asked Mr.Brebbia why the Argentine delegates, of which he was one, to the London Wheat Conference had signed the agreement he said it was because of their desire to cooperate internationally with the other governments and because at that time the country was suffering from a severe drouth of five months duration and the prospect was for a very small crop which would not be affected by the agreement. Otherwise they would not have entered into the agreement because Argentina had no surplus carryover and there was no reason why Argentina should create one in order to enable the United States and Canada to reduce their enormous stocks. He remarked that Roosevelt's demonitization of gold had disrupted the economic structure of the world and had rendered futile the Economic Conference at London. He said that the first meeting of the Committee on Wheat had failed to reach an agreement but that at a second meeting a plan was drawn up allocating to Argentina a quota of 150,000,000 bushels. This was acceptable to Argentina, but at a later meeting to which he had been called he found that the quota had been reduced to 110,000,000 bushels,to which he had protested vigorously as inadequate. To induce him to sign the agreement the other members assured him that it was necessary to let the figures stand for their psychological effect but that there was a "gentleman's agreement" to the effect that each country would do the best it could to bring about a reduction of acreage of fifteen per cent and that if larger quotas were needed they could readily be granted. He was very indignant at the charges made

in the foreign press to the effect that Argentina had violated her agreement, when as a matter of fact she had lived up to the "gentlemen's agreement" quite as well as the other countries and would not have signed the formal agreement on any other terms. He pointed out that Canada and Australia both confessed they had failed, and apparently had made little or no effort to keep the agreement, and that the United States after spending enormous treasure to bribe farmers had failed except for the great drouth for which the government could not take any credit.

Mr.Brebbia was frank, sincere, and friendly, and spoke for his department and the government authoritatively as Under Secretary of Agriculture as well as having served as the Argentine delegate at the London Wheat Conference. It was just the information our "Wheat Commission" wanted, but I desired that the other members ~~to~~ hear from Mr.Brebbia's lips just what he had told me. I explained that I greatly appreciated what he had said and his frankness and assured him that his version of the situation of Argentina with respect to the London Wheat Agreement would be correctly reported to my department, but I had one other favor to ask, and that was that he repeat what he had just said to me to my colleagues. I explained that I was not alone in this mission but was paired with Mr.Theis, our grain marketing expert, and that we were taking Mr.Nyhus and Mr.Leudtke about with us so that they would thoroughly understand all that passed and could cooperate intelligently after we left. I assured him that Messrs.Theis,Nyhus and Leudtke were departmental men, entirely trustworthy, and I would guarantee that they would come to listen and not to argue and would listen sympathetically and understandingly to what he had to say. He readily agreed to make an appointment for us the following Monday afternoon, that being his earliest free date.

Before leaving the department I asked to be directed to the office of the Chief of the Agricultural Division. I was much surprised to find that SrStorm, a German, was the chief. We recognized each other immediately as having met and been together a good deal at San Juan in 1924. We had a very pleasant visit together and he told me about the work his bureau was trying to accomplish and the progress of the various experiment stations. I inquired after Sr. Pastor and he sent for him. Sr. Pastor had changed very little and was glad to see me. Both spoke Spanish only although both understood a little English. Both offered to detail one of their staff to accompany us on a trip to the interior.

Upon my return to the office I found Messrs.Theis and Nyhus eager to know the results of my interview. I tried to repeat as nearly as I could what Mr.Brebbia had said. They were sceptical and critical and I was subjected to a cross examination that irritated me as something quite uncalled for. There appeared to be a background of suspicion that I had in some way arranged for a personal interview with Mr.Brebbia from which they were excluded and that I was biassed in favor of the Argentine Department of Agriculture and was prepared to advocate Mr.Brebbia's view. Finally this irritation and forbearance on my part reached a limit. Turning to Mr. Nyhus I said, "You heard me talking with Mr.Brebbia over the office telephone; you heard me ask him if I should come alone or bring my colleagues, and you heard me repeat his reply, "come alone". I hope you remember it and that it is perfectly clear to you. It was not for me to refuse to go alone or to insist that you and Mr.Theis come with me contrary to his wishes. I hope that is perfectly clear and understandable. I was glad to go alone for the very reason that Mr.Brebbia wanted to see me alone; we have been personal friends for more than ten years and saw each other and for a time lunched together in Rome

almost daily. It was quite natural that we should both want to meet alone as old friends. Unfortunately he has not had an opportunity to know you gentlemen as he knows me. In our conversation he talked frankly, sincerely, and I believe honestly, in a way that he probably would not talk before strangers. It's just the information we wanted to get and probably could have gotten in no other way. We certainly got none of it at our group official meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, as you very well know. You both have implied by your criticisms and scepticism that Mr.Brebbia has tried to deceive me. I resent the implication. His statements regarding the "gentlemen's agreement" and why he signed the London agreement are confirmed in part at least by what Mr.Wheeler, who was present, said--and Mr.Wheeler is your chief and was an eyewitness, Mr.Nyhus. I think Mr.Brebbia is fully justified in being indignant at the propaganda, I repeat propaganda, that has emanated from our department in Washington, from Canada, from Australia, and other sources to the effect that Argentina is the only country that did not fully live up to the London Wheat agreement. Why? Do you recall, Mr.Nyhus, the admissions of Mr.McFarland and Dr.Grant at the Minneapolis meeting at which you were present that Canada had done practically nothing with respect to acreage reduction and had observed the quota only because it was a large one and she could not find a profitable market for more; and their statement also that so far as they knew Australia had done nothing. And you, Mr.Theis, are proud of what your organization of the three A's accomplished; but remember you spent and enormous sum, perhaps a hundred million dollars in bribes to farmers to reduce their wheat plantings by fifteen per cent and you got, by your own figures, a reduction of only nine per cent. And in the marketing of wheat you yourself admit that Argentina has been more successfull than has the United

States even with its enormous bureaucratic organization and unlimited funds for coercion and influence and financing. Another thing: we must never forget that Argentina is an independent republic the same as the United States and is under no obligation whatever to the United States, and that the officials of the Argentine government did not invite the government of the United States to send a group of agricultural experts to come down here and tell ~~that~~ them what to do or to criticise them for what they have or have not done. We are here and can be here only to talk with them in a friendly way and hear what they volunteer to tell us. I want you to bear what I have said in mind because at my request Mr.Brebbia has agreed to meet us as a group and repeat to the group what he said to me next Monday afternoon, and he granted my request upon my personal assurance that you were not here to criticise but to learn just what is the point of view of the Argentine officials with respect to the London Agreement."

Mr.Nyhus wanted to know why the appointment had not been made for tomorrow. Again I was irritated. "Because," I replied, Mr.Brebbia is overworked and is booked up for several days. Tomorrow he has a meeting as chairman of the Wheat Control Committee and of the committees in charge of the elevator and road construction programs of the government, besides other appointments. Saturday morning he and the Minister of Agriculture leave for Rosario where they are to make speeches at ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ an anniversary meeting of the Bolsa. The next day is Sunday and they will be returning to Buenos Aires. Monday forenoon will be a busy one for him at the department. He has given us an appointment for the afternoon. Do either of you, if you were in his place, think you could have done better in making an appointment to meet some officials from a foreign country who came without invitation on a mission in which he

or his colleagues or anybody else in Argentina is not interested?" A question from either Mr.Theis or Mr.Nyhus again rubbed my nerves the wrong way by its implied distrust and this time I said rather curtly, "Damn it all, I'm through for today. You will have the privilege of meeting Mr.Brebbia and hearing with your own ears what he has to say and judging for yourselves next Monday afternoon," and with that I turned away. They took the hint, picked up their papers, and did not refer to the matter again. I confess I was much provoked at their unduly critical, sceptical, persistent, crossquestioning attitude, and their assumption that the Argentine officials were common political tricksters and that we were here to prove it and had the right to prove to them that they were in the wrong. To me their attitude of selfassured righteousness was utterly absurd and if known would render all efforts to reach a friendly understanding futile.

At 6 p.m. I went to the hotel expecting to meet a delegation of employes from the statistical bureau. At 6.30 p.m. Mr.Salas, secretay of the bureau, came in. We exchanged greetings and talked brokenly for a few minutes. We had never known each other very well and his Spanish was hard to understand and he understood no English. I still expected others to call and remained in the reception room to receive them but none came.

At 8 p.m.Mr.Nyhus looked me up and we had supper at the Conte. Later he came to my room with a draft of a cablegram he and Mr.Theis had fixed up which I approved. Then a reporter came up and asked a lot of questions which we tried to answer. It was 11 p.m.

Mr.Nyhus said that the Ambassador had asked who was the head of our delegation, Mr.Theis or Mr.Estabrook, and he had replied that he did not know but he thought I was. I said I thought so too, but it made little difference anyway; that both had been sent here to as-

verify information already on file in the Washington office and to be on the ground and ready to cooperate in any way possible while the Wheat Conference was in session at London; that I proposed to confine my activities to the strict purpose for which we had been sent here, namely, the London Wheat Agreement and the extent to which the Argentine government had lived up to it and what it was prepared to do in future, while Mr.Theis could collect all the information he desired regarding the mechanics of buying, selling, and exporting wheat in Argentina, information that might be helpful in his official work as chief of the grain marketing division of the three A's in Washington and very valuable to his grain exporting firm after he returned to it.

(Mother, 16 Aug.,B.A., brown folder)

New City Hotel, Buenos Aires,
Wednesday, 16 August 1934.

"Dear Mother:

"My last letter was written Wednesday, August 8, on the S.S. American Legion on the River Plate a short distance out of Montevideo. All that day the ship made slow progress up the great river because of fog and shallow channel. Part of the time she was sliding over mud banks. It was cold and very depressing. The passengers were under more or less of a nervous strain and not in a mood to be sociable.

"We reahhed the port of Buenos Aires just as darkness settled over the land and water and drew up to the wharf at 6 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. There were the usual delays and confusion in landing, but the American Embassy had arranged for our free entry and transfer to the New City Hotel. This is a modern hotel and we were assigned nice rooms on the 11th floor.

"Mr. Leudke in the office of the American Agricultural Attache, whom I have known for many years, took us to a German restaurant, where we had an excellent supper and music.

"Thursday, August 9, foggy and cold. After breakfast we went to the office of the Agricultural Attache. At 11 o'clock our party went to the Chancery (downtown business office) of the American Embassy and met the Ambassador, Mr.Weddell, of Virginia,and his staff. The Ambassador agreed to arrange for an interview with the Minister of Agriculture. Upon returning to our office we studied some statistics and then went down to the Boston Bank on the first floor and bought some Argentine money. Next we walked to the American Club for luncheon. It has quarters in the New York City Bank building and we are to be given guest cards. Here we had a nice luncheon and I met several business men who remembered me. On the street I met an old friend

and nearly caused a ~~f~~ traffic jam because we stopped to greet each other. In the afternoon we had interviews with the American Consul and the Acting Commercial Attache. I forgot to mention that as soon as the steamer docked we were besieged by a horde of photographers and newspaper men. This second day I felt that I had to receive a newspaper man in the evening, although I told him I was tired and we had been ashore so short a time that we could not be expected to have anything to say. After he left our party walked to the Richmond Restaurant on Florida and had a cocktail. It is an enormous place and was so full we had difficulty in getting seats. About 10 p.m. we adjourned to a sort of night club restaurant where we had supper, wine, Argentine tango music, and dancing until 2 a.m. This night club had about twenty hostesses, beautiful and well dressed women, who danced with all comers. It was interesting, of course, but both the music and the dancing were without variatinn and soon became monotonous.

"Friday, August 10, was clear, bright and pleasant. After breakfast we went to the office. Mr. Theis and I reviewed a lot of material while Mr. Nyhus, the newly appointed American Agricultural Attache, went with our Ambassador to call on the Argentine Foreign Minister. Mr. Nyhus reported that the Minister was very frank in expressing regret that 90 per cent of the grain business in Argentina was monopolized by three firms, and in asking that the American officials advise how a better system of credit could be provided for Argentine farmers and better methods of propaganda devised for improving farm ~~methods~~ practices. Because we had no word from the Ambassador as to when we could meet the Minister of Agriculture we did not feel free to look up business men until that official function was over. During the afternoon a man came from the Department of Agriculture to convey to me the greetings and good wishes of the chief and other

members of the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Statistics and I tried to explain to him in Spanish why I had not felt free to make a personal call at the bureau. In the late afternoon we took a long walk to a printing establishment where we left an order for some business cards.

"I see many changes in Buenos Aires in the last ten years. A broad avenue has been cut diagonally across the business section of the city. There are many new and strictly modern buildings, including several hotels. But in the old part of the city the streets are still narrow, with little three-foot sidewalks, and a street car track so close that a pedestrian must watch out when a car passes or he will be ~~bf~~ bumped off. My two companions are tremendously impressed by the size and cosmopolitan character of the city and by its modernness. It has a population of more than two million and the traffic and number of automobiles seems to be quite as great as in a city of similar size in the United States. Prices and the cost of living seem to be a little lower than in the United States.

"It is a little difficult for an American to become accustomed to the different hours of eating. Luncheon comes between 1 and 2 p.m. Few people enter a dining room for supper before 9 p.m. It is winter here and dark at 5.30 p.m.It seems like a long wait for supper at 9.30 or 10 p.m. when most people dine.

"This evening we joined a party of our steamship friends and had a cocktail together at the Richmond and supper at the night club. Again it was 2 a.m. when we went to bed.

"Saturday, August 11, was another beautiful bright day, about as cool as October with us. Spent the forenoon at the office discussing the guaranteed ~~w~~ price of wheat and exchange operations of the Argentine Government. The Government bought the wheat at a fixed minimum ~~price, but by a lucky stroke the world price advanced~~

price which at the beginning was higher than the world price, but by ~~a lucky stroke~~ good luck the world price advanced so that it made a profit. To cover its possible losses on wheat the Government decreed that all the dollar and pound exchange the exporters got should be turned over to the Government at a fixed rate and those who wanted exchange had to buy it from the Government at a much higher price; so the Government has made a huge profit from both the buying and the selling of wheat and exchange. This has improved business conditions greatly and everybody seems to be optimistic.

"Offices were closed in the afternoon and we separated. I took a long walk and then slept for several hours. After supper we were joined by Mr.Leudkte and taken to a picture show. It was held in a modern theater finished inside with soft gray colors. The house was full, the show was good--American films of course, spoken in English but with a Spanish translation--and lasted until 1 pr 2 a.m. From the theater we walked to a great restaurant that seemed to cover half a city block and was very ornate with marble columns, gilding, mirrors, and paintings. It was full to capaity and we had difficulty in finding a table for three. The place was kept warm by electric heaters on the walls and columns. There was a good orchestra and it was bright and cheery. I know of no similar place in the United States.

"Sunday, August 12, was bright and beautiful. I overslept and without breakfast went with Mr.Nyhus to the Theater Colon to hear a violin recital by Mischa Ermal to begin at 10 a.m. We followed the crowd into the main entrance but were told that everything was sold out and we would have to buy our tickets at another entrance. On the other side we found a ticket office where we were told that everything was sold except boxes for which the price was thirty pesos--about ten dollars. We were about to leave when I observed a young lady pleading with two gentlemen to join her in paying

for a box. I spoke up and asked if we could join also, and so we did, making a party of six. We were shown into compartment No.6 in the second tier of boxes. The theater is a large one and has six tiers of balcony boxes extending from floor to ceiling. The whole interior is very ornate and on this occasion every seat was occupied. There was no orchestra but the violinist was accompanied by a pianist. I haved always loved the violin and wondered at its power of expression, but I never dreamed that it had such capacity in the hands of a master to please and to stir the emotions. I was ashamed of myself when I realized that tears were streaming down my face until I noticed that others were in the same condition. The concert lasted for three hours, was a great success, and there were many encores. The four strangers in the box with us turned out to be very friendly and interesting. The lady was from Peru and was exceptionally intelligent and bright; one of the gentlemen was an engineer, one a lawyer, and the other a doctor. All had been to Europe and two had visited the United States, and one of them could speak a little English. My companion, Mr. Nyhus, had been around the world and spent three years in China. It seemed curious that six people could meet at random in the Theater Colon in Buenos Aires and be quite as congenial as a group on an ocean liner or in a hotel drawing room.

"After the performance Mr.Nyhus and I stopped at a restaurant for a cocktail and then walked back to the hotel where we had a nice luncheon. I went to my room and slept until I was awakened by Mr.Nyhus at 7 p.m. He said that Mr.Cook, President of the Grain Exchange and head of the Government's Farm Board was down stairs waiting for me. Mr.Cook and I had met years before and recognized each other immediately, and he spoke in the most complimentary terms of the statistical organization I had established ten years before. We had a cocktail together and he explained the grain situation in Argentina with the

utmost frankness. After he left Messrs.Nyhus, Theis and I went to the Richmond and thence to the London Grill for supper. I had an oyster stew and it was something of a disappointment because there were only a few oysters and the largest of them was less than an inch long so that one had to use his imagination to detect the oyster flavor.

"Monday, August 13, was bright, clear and pleasant. At the office we had a visit and conversation with Consul General Warren. At 11 a.m. the Ambassador took us to meet the Minister of Agriculture. We found him to be a very pleasant gentlement but rather noncommittal on this first visit. He and his family are said to own nearly a quarter of a million acres of rich land in the Province of Buenos Aires. With him was the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Mr.Brebia, whom I had known for many years, and a Mr.Prebisch, Economic Adviser to the Minister. Our visit ended with a promise by the Minister that he would appoint a committee to discuss the London Wheat Agreement with us.

"In the afternoon we had a long interview with the head of the International Harvester Company in Argentina. He was very enthusiastic about the present situation and future prospects of Argentina, and he gave us much inside information about the officials of the government responsible for the wheat agreement, for the fixing of a minimum price and exchange control, and the situation in the back country or latifundia. He called attention to the fact that no matter how hard times were or how adverse exchange was Argentina has continued to pay interest on all her foreign bonds.

"After returning to the office Mr.Theis went out to present a letter of introduction to one of the great exporting firms, while Mr. Nyhus and I sat down to formulate a cable message to Secretary Wallace. This required much thought and was not finished until after 8 p.m. Then the three of us went to the Restaurant Conte facing the

Plaza Mayo near the Casa Rosada (the Argentine White House) and had the finest grilled steak any of us had tasted. It was thick and juicy and tender, cooked just right, and cost about fifty cents. Such a steak in the United States would probably cost about $2.50.

"Tuesday, August 14, was clear and bright. In the forenoon we spent an hour with Mr.Cook in the Bank of the Nation and in the Cereal Exchange having explained to us how wheat is bought and sold in Argentina. At 1 p.m. we drove to the Chancery and from there accompanied the Ambassador and members of his staff to the American Embassy where a luncheon in our honor was served. The Embassy building is probably the finest owned by the United States. It was erected as the private residence of a family of great wealth and is palatial in all its proportions and decorations. It is situated on a broad avenue with beautiful parks on two sides near the Rose Garden and park at Palermo. Inside the great halls and stairways are finished in marble and the floors covered with rugs. The stairway looks as if it might have been taken from the Congressional Library at Washington. The rooms or salons are luxuriantly furnished. The luncheon was something to be remembered, with baked partridge as the principal dish. Ambassador Weddell is from Richmond, Virginia, and knew Frederick County quite well. He showed me an illustrated book he had written many years ago setting forth the early history of Richmond. The luncheon, the wine, the cigars, and the conversation of the group, most of whom had served at posts scattered over the world, were very pleasant.

"In the afternoon we had a long interview with the economist of the Bank of Boston whose business it is to summarize the economic situation of the country periodically. He also threw much light on the operations of the government in fixing a minimum price on wheat and the control of exchange. Likewise he was very enthusiastic about the present and prospective situation of the country. He said that

collections had been unexpectedly good.

"In the evening we were the dinner guests of Mr.Leudtke whom I had known for many years in the department at Washington. He has been in Buenos Aires the last three or four years. He is a bachelor and has ~~apartments~~ rooms in what was formerly the Austrian Legation. It is a palatial building and his apartment is regal in size and appointments. In addition to our group of three there was a secretary from the American Embassy and a young man sent down by one of the great grain exporting firms of Minneapolis. After cocktails and cigars all round and conversation we adjourned to the stately dining room where a sumptuous dinner with wine and champagne was served. Next we went into a lounge salon and discussed Argentina, the Argentinians and the Argentine grain business, and told reminiscent stories of the United States. Mr.Leudtke was enamored with the country. Messrs. Nyhus and Theis were greatly impressed with what they had seen and heard. The other two members of the party who came here recently were evidently homesick and inclined to be critical. We got back to the hotel at 2 a.m.

"Wednesday, August 15, clear and bright, and a religious holiday. I awoke at 10 a.m., dressed, had breakfast, and took a short walk. Returning to the hotel I went into a delicious sleep until 4 p.m. and then wrote some letters. Mr.Nyhus called at 8 pm. and we went to a German restaurant for supper. We had a gorgeous steak, two inches thick, juicy and tender, grilled just right, with potatoes, bread and butter, wine and coffee. Without doubt the finest steaks in the world can be obtained here in Buesnos Aires at a moderate price--about fifty cents of our money.

"The newspapers here have carried daily reports of extreme heat and drouth in the United States. I am hoping that the heat did not extend east of the mountains and that you have been fairly comfortable.

In spite of reports in our papers to the contrary the winter here has been mild, about like our October or April. We have had a week of bright sunshine and one can be comfortable in a light overcoat.

"Love to all.

Lee.

Friday, 17 Aug.,B.A.; cloudy and cold. Spent the forenoon with Messrs.Theis and Nyhus formulating a reply to the cable request regarding the organization of the Argentine government for carrying out its part of the Wheat Agreement. In all my experience I had never seen two men spend more time over the phraseology of a simple statement and about a simple state of fact about which there was general agreement. I was thoroughly disgusted. Both declined to approve the draft I drew up; and when I told them to agree upon a statement between themselves, neither was willing to subscribe to the launguage proposed by the other. Then they tried combining the two statement with the result that the hybrid was not satisfactory to either. Of the two Mr.Theis was the more practical and reasonable and had less pride of authorship than Mr.Nyhus.

We had luncheon at the London Grill. This time I tried their fried oysters and was greatly disappointed. After luncheon we called on the manager of the United States Exchange, Mr.Herren, who gave us a copy of his annual report and discussed the question of exchange.

Next we drove in a taxi to the offices of the J.I.Case Co., and had a very satisfactory interview with Mr.Reynard and Mr.Millard, both of whom confirmed information we already had regarding ~~xxxx~~ wheat acreage and efforts of the government to bring about a reduction.

At 7.30 p.m. Mr.Cook, manager of the Grain Exchange, called for us and took us to his apartments where we were introduced to his wife and had an excellent supper. The dining room chairs were extremely uncomfortable. After supper we adjourned to a small sitting room, had liquers and smokes, and talked about the grain business until 1 a.m. I was desperately tired and sleepy. It was a most

uncomfortable and interminable evening in spite of Mr.Cook's obvious efforts to entertain us. He seemed almost on the verge of nervous prostration.

During the day Mr.Theis and I stopped at the offices of the Munson Line and made cabin reservations for the return trip on September 8.

Saturday, 18 Aug.,B.A.; clear, bright, and pleasant. I walked to the office with Mr.Nyhus and there found a communication from Dr.Ezekiel transmitting copies of communications to Ambassador Bingham of the Advisory Wheat Committee of London that was then in session.

Mr.Nyhus went out shortly after noon to look at houses. Mr. Theis left also to spend the afternoon with friends. I left at 2' p.m., had luncheon, and slept all the afternoon. Had supper with Mr.Nyhus at the Chicken House at 1772 Calle Corrientes. The supper was excellent and the restaurant was elegantly trimmed and finished in hard woods and marble. Meats were grilled on a spit at an open fire. Every seat in this large place was occupied.

From the restaurant we walked up the street and stopped to see a young woman "cut in two by a saw," as announced in Spanish by a barker in front. It was a fake, of course, The girl was laid out on a frame that was supposed to be pushed against a large steel saw with wicked teeth. The barker expatiated in lurid language on what would happen when the saw was set in motion and the girl pushagainst it, ~~only~~ both neither happened. We were invited to pass through a narrow door to one side and on doing so found outselves on the outside. The "sell" was such a complete one that everyone who passed through came out with a grin on his face.

We went into a large movie theater and saw The Barber of Seville, which was very good. This wasf followed by "Viva Villa," which also was very good.

We walked back to the hotel and had a whiskey and soda in the bar. It was 2 a.m. when we retired to our rooms. Again I was very tired.

Sunday, 19 Aug.,B.A.; clear springlike day. I slept until noon when Mr.Nyhus came to my room and waked me up. We had breakfast-luncheon and then drove to the Retiro railway station where we took the electric train to Olivos. He wanted to inspect some houses for rent of which he had a list and wanted me to go along as interpreter. I suggested that we take a taxi but Mr.Nyhus wanted to walk.

The first house we looked at was a small two story brick on a side street, such a house as might rent for thirty or forty dollars a month in the suburbs of Washington. Inside the rooms were small but we were both surprised at the neatness and appropriateness of the furniture and decorations, approaching real elegance. It was a cheerful little home with a bright sitting room in the rear and a window looking out on a small garden with lawn and flowers. The rental was given as 230 pesos per month, which would be about $70.

For the next house Mr.Nyhus had a letter of introduction from agents in the city to the occupant. It was a pretentious structure on a large corner lot, with a tower, balconies, verandas, portcochere, terraces, flowers, and trees. Inside it was decorated and furnished in palatial style, with many large rooms, five bedchambers and baths, and other modern improvements. One was a billiard room and another was a nursery, this last with a cart load of toys of every description. It was a most complete and elegant establishment. The couple occupying it were evidently cultured and both could read and understand a little English. The gentleman said the rental was 1,500 pesos per month but thought it could be obtained for less.

This, of course, was much more than Mr.Nyhus felt that he could afford to pay. He told the tenant this but nothing ~~must~~ would do but we must inspect every room, even to the attic and tower. I was very tired by the time we bid our hosts adios. When we came out on the street I looked about for a carriage or a taxi which I could hire to sit in but none was visible. I should have insisted on returning to the hotel but did not wish to disappoint Mr.Nyhus who was young, stalwart, and robust and was thoroughly enjoying himself. On the other hand ~~w~~ I was exhausted and limp as a rag and very unhappy.

We walked what seemed many city blocks, stopping to look at the exteriors and surroundings of house with "To Let" (Alquiler) signs and finally stopped to inspect a small house built as a Swiss chalet in the midst of large grounds with lawn, flowers, shrubbery, and trees. Here again we had to look at every room in the house. Its windows were very narrow, the rooms were small, the corridors and staircases very narrow, the wall paper very ~~dirt~~ dark and shabby, and the furniture old and much worn. Outside the house and grounds were very attractive, but inside the house was most unattractive, and Mr.Nyhus decided it would not do.

I became so extremely tired that I had to tell Mr.Nyhus that I would have to return and he reluctantly consented. We walked up hill and across the town to another railway station. Fortunately we did not have long to wait for a train that put us back to Retiro at 5 p.m. Here I started to hail a taxi but Mr.Nyhus begged to walk and I foolishly consented. It was all of a mile to the hotel and the walking was very trying because of the narrowness of the sidewalks. At the hotel I threw myself on the bed and slept profoundly for two hours until awakened by Mr.Nyhus. Mr.Theis joined us and we walked to the Juston Restaurant for supper. We walked back to the hotel

at 10.30 p.m. I was extremely tired and a little provoked that I had not had a waking moment to myself all day.

Monday,20 Aug.,B.A.; clear and pleasant. I was up early, had a stiff drink of cognac, dressed,and went down to the reception room and looked over the morning papers. I was joined by Mr. Theis and together had breakfast and walked to the office.

The three of us had luncheon together and at 3 o'clock we went to the Ministry of Agriculture to keep our appointment with Mr.Brebia. Several other visitors ware waiting in the antiroom. His secretary said Mr.Brebia had not yet reached his office. He also advised me that Dr.Urien wanted to see me and sent a messenger to conduct me to his office. I found Dr.Urien looking very thin and much worn and very nervous from a severe illness. He was very demonstrative when we met, threw his arms about my shoulders, and phinted to my photograph in a position of honor on the wall. Then he conducted me through room after room. As we entered each room he announced me by name as the "Chief of the Statistical Service of the United States, El Maestro," and all the clerks rose to their feet and saluted me. Some of the older ones whom I remembered came forward to shake hands. Dr.Urien seemed very proud of his organization and equipment. In the corridor we met Andreas, the old mayor domo who used to serve tea and mate with little cakes and who seemed overjoyed to see me. In a large room full of clerks and adding machines we met Mr.Geldart, my former secretary, who had been promoted to be the fiscal officer of the bureau. In another room I met Dr. Borea who was with me when we made the economic survey of the wine grape industry of San Juan and Mendoza. Altogether it was a very gratifyingly friendly reception.

Dr.Urien went with me to Mr.Brebia's office and I introduced him to my colleagues. We had to wait nearly an hour before he came.

It was very trying because the antiroom was small, there were only three chairs, and visitors kept coming in and standing about until they got tired. My colleagues were ~~visibly~~ impatient and bored, and so was I. Dr.Urien was visibly ill and looked as if he were on the verge of collapse.

At last, about 5 p.m., Mr.Brebia arrived and we were shown into his office. I first presented to Mr.Brebia a large envelope containing a complete file of circulars, bulletins, and instructions issued by our Department of Agriculture regarding the control of wheat acreage, saying that I did not expect him to take the time to read them but thought he might like to send the collection to his files for future reference. Then I reminded him that I wished my colleagues to hear his statement of what the Argentine government had done and felt that it could not do with respect to curtailing wheat acreage and exports in accordance with the London agreement, why the government had consented to enter into the agreement, and whether it was willing to continue to cooperate in future with the other exporting nations. Very obligingly and very frankly he proceeded to repeat the substance of our previous conversation. While talking he was called out on a telephone call. He returned in a quarter of an hour and said he had been talking with the Argentine representative at the London conference but it was very difficult to understand just what was said and that a cablegram would follow. Resuming his summary he made a very complete and logical statement. After he was through Messrs.Theis and Nyhus plied him with questions some of which he answered and others were answered by Dr.Urien, who displayed a remarkable memory and familiarity with the statistics of world wheat production and movement. Mr.Nyhus seemed to think he had an unanswerable argument when he said that if the exporting countries would reduce their acreage, and therefore

production and stocks, there would be a corresponding rise in price that would bring a profit to growers and shippers. Dr.Urien answered most emphatically that such was not the case, that there had been material reductions in stocks without any corresponding rise in world price, and he quoted an array of figures in support of his statement.

Mr.Brebia said that his family for two or three generations had been farmers and that he himself had had about fifteen years experience as a grain merchant and had served as president of the grain exchange at Rosario and therefore that he knew something about wheat in Argentina. This statement won the respect of Mr. Theis who hastened to assure Mr.Brebia that both his father and himself had been grain merchants in the United States and were informed on the exporting side of the business. They became quite friendly. Mr.Brebia said that if we expected to visit points in the interior he would be glad to detail a specialist from the department to accompany us, but we thanked him and said that our contemplated visit was uncertain, because we preferred to go alone.

It was after 6 p.m. when we left. We proceeded to the American Club for a drink and a little relaxation after our long afternoon. Then to Conte's for a delicious steak dinner.

At Mr.Nyhus's request I went with him to the Odeon Theater to see the English Players in "What a Man He Was." It was about the poorest play I ever saw and the seats were exceedingly uncomfortable. We walked back to the hotel at a late hour.

I was grateful to Mr.Brebia for repeating to my colleagues what he had said to me a few days before because of the doubt and suspicion openly expressed by them when I told them about it. Now there was no further question in their minds regarding it. That doubt and suspicion on their part still rankled in my mind as something wholly unwarranted

unjust and inexcusable. I could account for it only on the theory that both were blinded by preconceived ideas and anything to the contrary was incredible to them.

Tuesday, 21 Aug.,B.A.; clear, bright, and springlike. I was very sleepy when I awoke in the morning and looked at the watch under my pillow showing 10.30 a.m. and then at the watch in my bé vest pocket showing 7.30. Unable to decide which was right I dressed hurriedly and went down for breakfast. At the office I began drafting a cable report to the Secretary. Our party had luncheon as guests of Mr.Ringwalt and Vice Consul Smith at the Continental Hotel restaurant.

At the office had a call from Mr.Hoxmark who used to be in the Argentine weather bureau and specialized on making correlations between crop yields and weather. He said that for the last five years he had been on the staff of La Nacion. I introduced him to Mr.Nyhus and they promptly became very chummy because both were of ~~Norwegian~~ Swedish descent.

After a late supper at Conte's I declined to go to any theater and retired as soon as I reached my room.

Wednesday, 22 Aug.,B.A.; cloudy and mild. Slept well and was at the office shortly after 9 a.m. before either Mr.Theis or Mr. Nyhus arrived. Mr.Nyhus again raised the question as to whether I or Mr.Theis was in charge and I said I thought I was, or rather I believed the Secretary intended that I should be, especially as he continued to address all communications to me and none to Mr.Theis, but so far as I was concerned it did not make a particle of difference so long as we accomplished our mission with credit.

Just before noon we went to the Chancery where the Ambassador was holding a weekly conference with his staff. Mr.Theis gave a brief resume of our interview with Mr.Brebia. I added as a matter of in-

formation that this last interview to which Mr.Theis referred had resulted from a personal interview I had with Mr.Brebia a few days previously,he and I having been friends for many years. I made this gratuitous statement because Mr.Theis had neglected to make any reference to it and appeared to give the impression that the interview which he thought was of sufficient importance to summarize had resulted from his efforts, although he did not say so.

After luncheon the three of us had an interesting interview with Mr.Rugeroni of the Argentine Times and Argentine Herald. He was opposed to the government's having anything to do with the wheat industry or trade as an interference with private business and expressed himself vigorously and humorously. He also took a few digs at the United States and pointed out that many of the trade barriers throughout the world had their origin in the protective policy of the United States. He was quite positive that it would be impossible for the Argentine government to control either wheat acreage or exports without resorting to bribes as was done in the United States.

Then Mr.Nyhus, Leudkte, and I went to the Department of Agriculture and I introduced my companions to Sr. Storm, chief of the agricultural division. Most of the conversation was about the soils of Argentina. He received Mr.Nyhus very cordially and invited him to call whenever he liked and if he was not there to get in touch with Sr.Pastor or Sr.Nieves who would show him every courtesy.

Returning to the office I found a copy of my letter of authorization which had been more than a month in reaching me. At six o'clock I went to the hotel and laid down for a nap until I was awakened by Mr.Nyhus. We had supper together and then went to a picture show which we did not like. We walked back and on the way he bought a bottle of wine. We sampled it in his room.

Thursday, 23 Aug.,B.A.; clear and cool. At the office I received a letter from Mr.Murphy of Minneapolis transmitting the last instalment of the shorthand report of our meeting there. Read a copy of the Argentine Times of September 1,1933, containing an English version of the press notice sent out by the Argentine government regarding the London Wheat Agreement.

Had luncheon with Mr.Nyhus at the Maxim Restaurant not far from the office. I stopped in a large office building in which my old friend Mr.O'Grady had an office, but I could not find the office or any one who could tell me where to find him. I suspect the trouble was that I did not know the name of the company he represented and his own name was not listed in the office directory.

At 3 p.m. the four of us called at the offices of Bunge & Born. They had one or more entire floors in a large office building that were fitted up like a large bank. We talked first with a Mr. Marcus and then with one of the Born partners who spoke English with a decided English accent. Both were friendly and talked frankly. All that they said simply confirmed what everybody else had said regarding the wheat situation and the government's relation to it.

Next we called on Louis Ridder, one of three principal competing firms in the grain business, Bunge & Born and Dreyfus being the other two. He also confirmed previous reports. The drab interior of his reception room was lightened by a number of oil paintings of land and seascapes.

I returned to the hotel and got my briefcase and portable typewriter which I took to the office to leave for safekeeping during our absence from the city, as we were planning to go to Rosario and other points. At the office I wrote a brief letter to Mr.Murphy at Minneapolis. At the hotel I packed a suitcase for the coming trip and sent the other suitcases to the storage room.

Santa Fe

Friday, 24 Aug.to Rosario; cloudy and warm forenoon, colder afternoon, and much colder at night. We were up at 7 a.m., had a light breakfast, and left Buenos Aires on the Argentine Central Railway at 8 a.m. We passed through a number of suburban towns across a level stretch of country, with many orchards and market gardens in places, and as we proceeded northward there was more general farming, pasture lands, and cattle. We changed cars at Rosario at 12.30 p.m. and proceeded northward through a flat country of rich garden soil and large farms as far as the eye could reach. The cultivated fields were green with wheat and many fields were newly plowed in preparation for flax and maize. Beyond Rosario was a section devoted to fruits and vegetables. Most of the trees were bare, but some of them, probably almonds, were in bloom. On some of the grazing lands were herds of cattle and horses, occasionally some flocks of sheep, but very few pigs.

We reached Santa Fe at 5.45 p.m. and went to the Ritz Hotel. The railway station was some distance from the business section. The shutters were down and the streets looked deserted. I was very tired and laid down for a nap. It had been too warm in the coach all day and as I was dressed for winter I suffered from the heat. This left me much enervated and had developed a cold in the head. When I opened my suit case I found that a bottle of whiskey I had packed in it the night before had leaked out to the last drop and stained the two spare shirts I had brought with me. It looked as if I would have to wear the shirt I had on for a week because there would be no opportunity to have it laundered. We had a fairly good supper but with horribly loud and strident music.

Saturday, 25 Aug.Santa Fe; clear and hot. Slept well on a hard bed but awoke with a severe pain in my right lung that troubled me every time I took a deep breath or coughed or laughed.

Had breakfast at 8.30 a.m. and at 9 p'clock the four of us walked to the office of Bunge & Born. The firm occupied a large office building with many young men employes. The manager was a young man who welcomed us and talked very freely. He brought out several letter file volumes of statistics showing production, shipments, exports, storage capacity, and the like for the port of Santa Fe. Mr. Theis took rather full notes. The manager took us down to the port and we inspected one of their large new elevators. We went down below the street level to see how the grain was dumped and taken by conveyors out to the waiting ship. There were forty-five ships in port but none of them was loading. The ships were having trouble because of low water and could take on only part of a cargo here, part at Rosario, and finish loading at Buenos Aires.

At this elevator I came near having an accident. We descended some narrow and very steep concrete steps to the chamber below the street level and in the semidarkness I could not see. I was following the others and one of them called out a warning that there was a turn in the steps near the bottom just as I stepped off into space. Fortunately I kept an upright position and landed on my feet but with a jar that made my spine and neck crack and caused great pain in the sore lung. For a moment I thought one of my ankles was sprained but this proved to be a mistake. I was speechless with pain for a minute or more but gradually recovered enough to proceed with the party. However, I suspect that this shock was the beginning of my physical troubles.

Next we visited the Grain Exchange and met all the officers and a group of members. The Exchange occupied a floor of a small office building and was divided up into departments of a single room, one for buying and selling, one for a directors' room, one for an arbitration committee, one for samples, and the like. Among

the group was a small man with a shock of hair and a large mustache who was something of an orator and who was bursting with desire to make a speech on every excuse. As we went from room to room, followed by all officers and members present, about forty in number, this gentleman, Sr.Fernandez, would make a brief set speech which he seemed to have memorized because he never hesitated. They were good speeches, too, brief and to the point and couched in the best of Castilian. In each of them he would always say, "So you see, gentlemen, while we are small, we have the organization and the facilities of any exchange in the world, the same as Chicago, New York,and London." Every man there seemed to want to show us courtesy and make us feel welcome. As we were about to pass out through the assembly room we found that the officials had sent out and had wines and spirits ~~sent~~ brought in. There on a long table was an array of bottles and glasses. We gathered about and drank to each other's health and prosperity, made little complimentary speeches of congratulation, and had a group picture taken, copies of which the secretary promised to send to our address. Afterwards and since we four agreed that nowhere else had we been shown such delicate attention, and we greatly admired the spirit of pride that the officers and members of the Grain Exchange of Santa Fe took in their institution.

Next we called on the agent, Sr. Denez, of the International Harvester Company who confirmed the various reports we had heard as to wheat sowings. He said the district about San Rafael, the great dairy district of Argentina, was settled by Swiss. He advised us to go by automobile to San Rafael and on to San Francisco.

This last suggestion resulted in an argument between Mr.Nyhus, who very much wanted to hire a car and go to Sam Francisco, and the other three members who did not care to undergo the hardships of such a trip and the uncertainty of getting away to make train connections.

We had a very poor luncheon for which a full charge was made. We hired an automobile and driver to take us to Rosario and started about 2.45 p.m. We drove through the city over rather rough pavements to the outskirts where we were stopped by the police who demanded the credentials of the driver. He did not have them with him and we could not proceed until he drove back to his lodging house for them. This delayed us about three-quarters of an hour. The distance to Rosario was said to be 160 kilometers, or about 96 miles. The car went only about tweny miles an hour, was crowded, dusty, and very tiresome. At one place there was a long detour over a dirt road with humps and ruts and much dust. At sunset it became very cold. Near Rosario we were held up for some time by a freight train that seemed to move backward and forward but never cleared the road.

As we approached Rosario another argument developed. Mr. Leudkte who had been in Rosario many times suggested that we go to the Palace/Hotel Italia while Mr.Theis, who had never been in Rosario before but one of whose friends had recommended the Palace, was very insistent that we should follow the recommendation of his friend. Mr.Theis was so insistent in saying that he would not go to the Italia that to avoid further argument the rest of us acquiesced and went with him to the Palace. It turned out exactly as Mr. Leudkte had predicted, the Palace was very inferior to the Italia. After taking a look at the dining room of the Palace we walked eight squares to the Italia where we had a good supper amid decent surroundings. Mr.Nyhus and I did not hesitate to express our opinion of the judgment of Mr.Theis's friend and our regret that we had been misled into following his advice. In fact we rather rubbed it in then and later whenever the subject came up. Curiously enough, while Mr.Leudkte was acting as our guide and interpreter and paid our

bills for us and had been over the ground at least several times before, and had spent much time in working out the itinerary and listing the stopping places, both Mr.Theis and Mr.Nyhus did not hesitate to suggest altering his plans from time to time and were as hard to keep in line as two irresponsible boys. Mr.Leudkte could not say much because Mr.Nyhus was his official superior and had been sent down to replace him and he was trying his level best to be of service to him. However, as an old friend, he did not hesitate to talk to me occasionally about his troubles

After supper we settled our accounts between us, reimbursing Mr.Leudkte, and walked back to the Palace Hotel. I announced that I proposed to retire early and did not wish to be disturbed until 1 p.m. the following day. I was desperately tired, my right lung was very painful, and I had a lame ankle. I suspected my companions were going to look up a night club.

Sunday, 26 Aug.,Rosario; clear, windy, and cold. I slept ~~throu~~ through to 11 a.m. and felt better for it. At noon I went down and had a cocktail and a light breakfast. As I was finishing Mr.Leudkte joined me and I sat with him while he ate his breakfast. As he finis-Mr.Nyhus came and the three of us took a long walk as far as the river and a small but very ornamental park. We walked back almost to the hotel when Mr.Nyhus expressed a desire to see the Theater Odeon where a concert was to be given that evening. We had some trouble in finding it and walked many more squares. I declined his invitation to go to the concert with him in the evening because I was tired from the long walk and suffering pain both in one lung and one ankle.

I was much impressed with the changes I noted in the appearance of Rosario since I saw it ten years previously. The streets had been paved and there were many new modern buildings. While at breakfast at noon I noticed many young men lined up along the sidewalk near

the hotel who tipped their hats at the young ladies who were returning from church.

After my long walk I went to my room and slept until 7 p.m. Down stairs I found Messrs.Nyhus and Leudkte and after a cocktail we walked to the Hotel Italia and had an excellent supper. Mr.Theis was being entertained by friends from Kansas City who were employes of a meat packing company. Mr.Nyhus became very nervous because the service started late and was slow and the time for his concert approached. After he left Mr.Leudkte and I sat and talked for quite awhile. He had many years of experience in Panama in connection with the construction of the Canal and while there had visited most of the Central American Republics. We walked back to the hotel and separated. I had a bottle of cognac sent up to my room and went to bed aarly.

Monday, 27 Aug.,Rosario; clear and cold. After breakfast a representative of the De Ridder Company called for us with automobiles and we were taken to the company's elevator that had a capacity of 12,000 tons. In addition they had shed space for about 80,000 tons. We went to the top of the elevator and I took photographs of the river front. Then we drove about a mile down the river where shelled corn was being loaded into the hold of a steamer. The corn was in bags and they had very ingenious devices for conveying the bags from the shed across the wharf and into the hold. At certain points in the system the bags would jump from one conveyer to another and looked as if they were chasing each other.

Then we were taken to the Grain Exchange which was in a commodious new building and met the officers and members on the floor. They gathered about us and asked questions eagerly. I became separated and was completely surrounded. Some of the members said they remembered me from my former visit. They asked many questions and I had

to be exceedingly careful in trying to formulate appropriate answers in Spanish.

Before going to the Exchange we had stopped in a branch of the Banco de la Nacion and talked with two members of the local grain control board.

We had a late luncheon, packed up, made a few farewell calls, and were driven to the railway station of a little French railroad where we boarded the train that was to take us to Puerto Belgrano near Bahia Blanca. The coaches were small and the sleeping compartments proportionately smaller. However, there was a small dining coach next to ours where we could sit and order drinks between meals. There were but few other passengers and we had the dining coach to ourselves most of the time. We had an excellent supper and good wine. My eyes had begun to trouble me again so I did not try to read but sat, smoked, sipped wine, and reviewed the events of the past few weeks in my mind. Mesrs.Theis and Nyhus spent much time in playing cards. In passing from the dining coach to the sleeper my hand was caught in the crooked metal lever of the door that served in lieu of a knolb and a sudden lurch of the train at that moment caused me to wound one of the fingers of my right hand. It bled profusely for awhile. I retired rather early so that I could get up early and see the landscape.

Tuesday, 28 Aug.,to Bahia Blanca; clear and cold. Had a bad night, caused by pain in wounded hand, right lung, and an ankle, and a bad cold and a cold bed. A stiff glass of cognac in the morning helped. Could not shave because of the motion of the train even with a safety razor. (Par.p.4992) In the daylight we could see that the coaches and their equipment were old and dilapidated. The train made all of eighteen miles and hour with constant squaking and rattling. Breakfast consisted of hard rolls and coffee. We were traversing

an open undulating prairie country about the center of the old pampa region of rich black soil, cut up in large tracts, and plows were going, some of them pulled by tractors. Away to the southwest we could see the shadowy outlines of mountains. We passed through Coronel Suarez and Pringles about noon. Wheat was up enough to show green and we saw large flocks of sheep and many herds of cattle and horses grazing on it. I was feeling very tired and dirty from dust and not having shaved.

We reached the railway station at Puerto Belgrano at 6 p.m. The station was far out from Bahia Blanca and we hired an automobile to take us to town and a hotel. We were taken to the Munez Hotel which was not very attractive. Messrs.Leudkte and Theis walked to the Hotel Italia and returned in about ten minutes advising that we stay where we were. We were shown to small clean rooms but without bath. It was very cold and I was shivering as if with the ague. We went to a restaurant around the corner and had two whiskeys and sodas and some hot coffee to warm us up. Then we sat around until 8 o'clock for the dining room to open. We had supper on the fifth floor of the hotel and it was fairly good. We inquired about heat for our rooms and were informed that a fire had been made and steam was on. This was good news. I told my companions that if it was as cold the next day as it was this evening I would stay in bed. We ~~planned~~ decided to leave for Buenos Aires tomorrow evening instead of waiting until the ~~next~~ day after as we had planned. Mr.Leudkte came to my room to tell me that there was no train leaving until 8.25 p.m. tomorrow

(Insert ~~at beginning of today's notes~~ on p. 4991): Had trouble in getting dressed. The narrow compartment was very dark when I awoke the window at each end being covered with a wooden shutter. The electricity was turned off. I fumbled for my suitcase and found that the battery was dead in my flash light. It was very cold and I was shivering. I tried

to raise the outside shutter but it was stuck hard and fast. In my efforts to loosen it my elbow struck the drinking glass on the wahstand. It fell to the floor with a crash. A splinter flew up and cut a gash on my ankle and it began to bleed freely. I took my handkerchief and brushed aside the glass splinters so that I could step to the door without cutting my feet. Then I found that I could not raise the shutter over the glass panel in the door. Neither could I get the door open. I was a prisoner in the little dark and very cold compartment.with a bleeding cut and broken glass on the floor. Fortunately my groping hand found a butten which I pressed repeatedly. At last the sleepy little attendant came and opened the door. I sat on the bed with a hankerchief wrapped around my cut ankle while he opened the shutters with a small crowbar and swept up the glass and wiped up the water and blood. But my troubles were not yet over. The pain in my right lung made it difficult to get into my clothes. It made it almost impossible to stoop over enough to lace my shoes. Then the large potbellied waterbottle that hung in an iron frame on a loose screw on the washstand decided it had hung long enough and fell off, broke, and again covered the narrow space with broken glass and water. I was at least four feet from it when the crash came and had not touched it for more than half an hour. Almost for the first time in my life I had an eerie feeling that an evil spirit was after me and that I would have to be very vigilant to avoid some bad accident.

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Wednesday, 29 Aug.,Bahia Blanca; clear and cold. Slept fairly well although the pain in the right lung bothered me, especially as I had a cold and it was necessary to blow my nose frequently and each "blow" caused a severe paroxism. At 8 a.m. a servant came through and waked everybody up. We had breakfast about 10 a.m. I ordered two eggs boiled four minutes for myself and the same for Mr.Nyhus. The

waiter brought eight eggs.

We walked a few squares to the branch house of De Ridder and had a long interview with the manager, Sr.~~García~~ Cesare Garcia, an elderly, stout, florid, jolly gentleman who looked like a Frenchman. He spoke fairly good English, relapsing into Spanish only when his English vocabulary proved inadequate. Mr.Theis had many questions to ask about how grain was bought and sold and stored. He said the storage capacity of the port was about 350,000 tons. He said that grain could be stored in bags piled up under sheds or tarpaulins for a few months and then had to go into elevators so that it could be turned and aired periodically to keep it from spoiling. He said that regularly he made a survey of the territory tributary to Bahia Blanca and had all the station masters of the railways reporting on blanks to him. He remembered taking George Bryant out with him on one of his tours of inspection. He was wholly out of sympathy with any program of crop restriction. In the afternoon he took us out to inspect the port facilities and grain elevators. They were modern in every respect. He showed us a pile of wheat in bags covered with great tarpaulins that he estimated contained one and one-half million bushels. These piles were laid on a ground platform of planks, had ditches around them to carry off the water, and a sheet iron fence sunk three feet in the ground to keep out rats. After inspecting the elevators we went aboard a Belgian ship, the Carber, alongside the wharf that was nearly loaded. It was freshly painted and looked very trim and neat. The captain, Mr.Parent, could speak English quite well, was very friendly and brought out both beer and whiskey. He brought out a record and read a report of what happened near Hongkong in January, 1929, when his ship was caught between two lines of fire.

We returned to the hotel at 6 p.m. I went to my room and Messrs.Theis went to the office of Mr.Garcia and one or two others to inquire about seed stocks. Mr.Garcia returned with the others and together we went to the Bahia Blanco Club. It was in a large and pretentious edifice with enormous rooms, a lounge, a library, and a bar. There we had a whiskey and soda all round. I held up my glass and bowing to Sr.Garcia said, "Bueno suerte" ZGood luck." His eyes beamed and he said, "And what else?" I smiled and added "Vida longa" (long life). "No," he said, "there is a refrain that goes this way, 'Bueno suerte, mucha plata, bonitas tetas'" (Good luck, much money, and pretty tities.) He was a bright and witty old gentleman and when Mr.Nyhus, with some insistance, argued that rsstriction of planted acreage was justified when in accordance with planned agriculture, he exclaimed "Ugh, como pueden los jovenes sin experiencia hacen planes y pinturas hermosas pero falsas con sus lapizes y papeles. Si, señores, son chimeras y mirages." (Ugh, how these inexperienced young ones can make plans and pictures beautiful but false with their pencils and papers. They are chimeras and mirages.) To which I felt inclined to say "Amen."

From the club we had barely time to reach the hotel, pay our bills, and get to the railway station in time for the train that left for Buenos Aires at 8.30p.m. After getting settled we walked back to the dining coach and had a good supper, a bottle of wine, and smokes.

I forgot to mention that the first night out from Rosario a peculiar odor pervaded the train. It had run over a skunk on the track and the odor lasted most of the night.

I was very tired when we boarded the train for Buenos Aires, and sore in lungs and legs, but had a feeling of great content. In spite of my physical disabilities I had enjoyed the rail-

way trip and the opportunity to see again the pampa country, but was glad to feel that it was coming to an end and that there was little to be done at Buenos Aires until Mr.Theis and I boarded the ship for New York and home. We had felt from the beginning that our mission to Argentina was a futile one beyond getting first hand information as to the wheat situation and the sentiment of the officials and business men, and that we had done.

Thursday, 30 Aug.,B.A.;a foggy morning. I was awakened at 8 a.m.still sleepy. Had a drink of cognac and felt better. Soon afterwards I went to the diner and had a cup of coffee. We were entering the suburbs of Buenos Aires. The country was green and there were many cattle. We pulled into the Estacion Constitucion at 9.45 a.m. and were driven to the New City Hotel. I was first assigned to a room that was undergoing repairs, but upon my vigorous protest I was assigned another and better room. I felt very cold and weak. Soon afterwards my baggage that had been left in storage was sent up and unpacked.

As I was about to shave and had my face covered with lather Mr.Nyhus came in with a cablegram from Secretary Wallace addressed to me and asking that I ~~se~~ *see* the Minister of Agriculture and ~~and~~ try to get assurances from him that there would be no increases in the wheat acreage of Argentina. Mr.Nyhus advised that it was some sort of a holiday and no business could be transacted. After he left I laid down for an hour or more with a feeling of complete exhaustion. Had luncheon with Messrs.Theis and Nyhus who were going out for the afternoon. I laid down and slept until 6.30 p.m.

Shortly after 7 p.m. I went down to the reception room and was soon joined by Messrs.Theis nd Nyhus. We had a good supper at Conte's. We separated at the hotel entrance, they to go to a theater and I to go to bed.

Friday, 31 Aug.,B.A.; a beautiful clear day. Slept well last night but still troubled with neuritis and tire easily. Had breakfast with Mr.Theis and together we walked to the office. Had a nice letter from sister dated August 6. I walked to an office building on Calle Sarmiento to see if I could find David Currier but the elevator man said he rarely came to his office and was not in. On the way back I was hailed by Mr.White who ten years previously ran an The American Magazine that failed. He said he had paid every debt resulting from that failure but it took him six years to do it, and that for several years he had been a correspondent of the New York Times. He laughed at the statement of Minister Duhau to the effect that Argentina could not live up to the London Wheat Agreement because of "fuerza mayor," and added that it would be absurd to expect the people down here to try to live up to such an agreement.

I was feeling badly from a cold and aching pains. Spent the entire afternoon in the office having Miss Short telephone from time to time in an effort to make an appointment with Mr.Brebia, but apparently it was his afternoon off. I left at 5 p.m., had a San Martin and went to bed and slept until 7 p.m. At 8 o'clock we went to the Juston Restaurant and had supper. We separated at the hotel entrance, they to go to a theater and I to retire. I told them I proposed to sleep through until tomorrow noon.

Saturday, 1 Sept.,B.A.; clear and bright. Slept until after 11 a.m. and dressed leisurely. Mr.Theis and I had luncheon together. Mr.Nyhus excused himself, saying he was to attend the livestock show with the Ambassador. We had official invitations and Messrs.Theis, Leudtke and I drove out in ample time to secure seats just back of the speakers' stand where we could see and hear everything. The great amphitheater soon filled up and all standing room was taken. The space about the speakers' stand soon was occupied by ministers of the